OXIHER / PROGRESS REPORT

FALL 2026

Ochsner Health | XAVIER UNIVERSITY of LOUISIANA

INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH EQUITY AND RESEARCH

Physician Engagement

Dr. Eboni Price-Haywood represented Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine through several National Medical Association engagements, delivering addresses at the NMA Annual Scientific Assembly and the NMA Health Professionals Townhall. At each gathering, she connected with physicians around the College of Medicine's mission and opportunities to help prepare the next generation of physician leaders.

Those conversations included Xavier University of Louisiana physician alumni who expressed interest in becoming more involved with the College of Medicine. Building on that interest, Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine is inviting physicians to share their time, experience and expertise through admissions interviews, clinical education, mentoring, community service, and career and workforce development.



Pictured: Bennetta Horne PhD, Eboni Price-Haywood M.D., DeQuan Smith, EdD attend the XULA Alumni Dinner during the NMA Annual scientific assembly.

Share or scan the QR code to complete the **Physician Engagement Interest Form** to tell us how you would like to engage.

Together, we can help develop a physician workforce that better understands and reflects the communities we serve.

Strengthening Community Connections with the Urban League of Louisiana

Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine strengthened its partnership with the Urban League of Louisiana through two signature events advancing healthier communities, educational access and economic opportunity.

As a Health Leader sponsor of the 5th Big Health Event, the College of Medicine connected with individuals and families in the event's Career Zone. On Saturday August 15th, through an interactive exhibit, College of Medicine leaders, faculty and staff engaged more than 700 attendees in conversations about the school's status, preparing for medical school and exploring careers in medicine. For younger visitors, hands-on activities made exploring medicine fun, with activity books, anatomy stickers, and medical-themed photo props.



Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine faculty, staff and volunteers come together for the Big Health Event. Group photo of faculty, staff, and volunteers

The day also included candid conversations with a physician leadership panel, where physicians reflected on their journeys in medicine and public health and encouraged the next generation to envision what is possible: See it. Believe it. Become it.

The College of Medicine also supported the Urban League's Empowerment & Policy Conference and Gala, joining community leaders in conversations about education, economic opportunity and the issues shaping our communities. The gathering also provided an opportunity to continue building awareness of the College of Medicine and OXIHER and their commitment to workforce development.

Growing Healthcare Leaders Through the Ochsner-Xavier Partnership

This fall marked the third semester of engagement between OXIHER and Xavier's Healthcare Management Program, reflecting an ongoing Health Careers & Workforce Development partnership designed to connect students with healthcare leaders and real-world learning opportunities. Through this sustained collaboration, students in HCMT 1000 and HCMT 4010 engaged directly with healthcare professionals who brought classroom concepts to life through practical experiences, case studies, and leadership perspectives.

Throughout the semester, students explored a broad range of healthcare careers and leadership pathways while gaining exposure to topics that shape today's healthcare environment. Michael Guillot, AVP of Emergency Management, introduced students to hospital emergency preparedness, crisis command, and the Hospital Incident Command System. Juliana Cruz, AVP of Compliance and Privacy, provided an inside look at healthcare compliance, auditing, risk assessment, corrective action planning, and ethical decision-making. Christen Mayer, System VP of Quality & Patient Experience, discussed leadership, quality, patient safety, organizational culture, stewardship, and the role values play in executive decision-making. Students also connected with Casie Woods, Director of Process Improvement, who shared how strategic planning, continuous improvement, SWOT analysis, and decision-making frameworks help healthcare organizations navigate complex challenges.

By connecting students with experienced healthcare leaders, the partnership provides meaningful opportunities for career exploration, professional development, mentorship, and applied learning while strengthening the pipeline of future healthcare leaders across our region.

Community Engagement: Partnerships in Action

During Q3 2026, OXIHER continued to strengthen its community engagement strategy by connecting Ochsner's clinical expertise with trusted community partners to advance health education, prevention, early detection, and access to care. Across the Southshore region, this work included community health events, screenings, educational programming, and increasingly, sustained partnerships designed to build trust and create meaningful connections between communities and healthcare resources.

Scan to watch the Big Health Event video

A particularly important example is OXIHER's continued partnership with Rock of Ages Baptist Church. Rather than a one-time event, the relationship has continued to develop around the health priorities of the congregation and surrounding community. What began as a collaboration to strengthen health and wellness within a trusted faith setting has evolved into an ongoing partnership focused on health education, prevention, community engagement, and building sustainable capacity within the church. This work reached an important milestone in 2026 with the acceptance of the Rock of Ages faith-based health ministry work for publication in the Ochsner Journal, providing an opportunity to share the experience and lessons learned from the partnership more broadly. Building on that foundation, OXIHER is also exploring development of a Faith-Based Health Ministry Toolkit to translate lessons from the Rock of Ages experience into practical resources that could support other faith communities interested in developing sustainable health ministries.

Ten events held from July through September reached more than 4,000 community members.



Dr. Yvens G. Laborde with Judy Reese Morse, president & CEO of Urban League of Louisiana and Dr. Eboni Price-Haywood at the 2026 Big HealthEvent.

Building on that relationship, OXIHER continued its work with Rock of Ages, including a recent breast cancer education session designed around prevention, early detection, treatment, and care. Ochsner clinicians were able to engage directly with congregants, answer questions, and make clinical expertise more accessible in a familiar community environment. This type of sustained partnership represents the direction of OXIHER's community engagement strategy: working with trusted partners over time to identify needs and connect communities with the right clinical expertise and resources.

Throughout Q3, OXIHER also maintained a broad community presence through major events such as the Urban League of Louisiana Big Health Event , which reached approximately 1,827 attendees, as well as men's health programming, health fairs, screenings, smoking cessation outreach, and culturally focused community events. OXIHER's partnership with Xavier University of Louisiana also continued to expand programming around substance use and suicide prevention, HIV education, skin health and wellness, and faith-based outreach.

Together, these efforts demonstrate an evolution in OXIHER's community engagement approach: from participating in individual events to developing sustained partnerships that bring Ochsner's clinical expertise directly into communities. The leadership and involvement of Dr. Eboni Price-Haywood, Dr. Yvens Laborde and Dr. William Kirchain, together with relationships such as Rock of Ages, are helping build a model centered on trust, prevention, continuity, and meaningful connections to care.



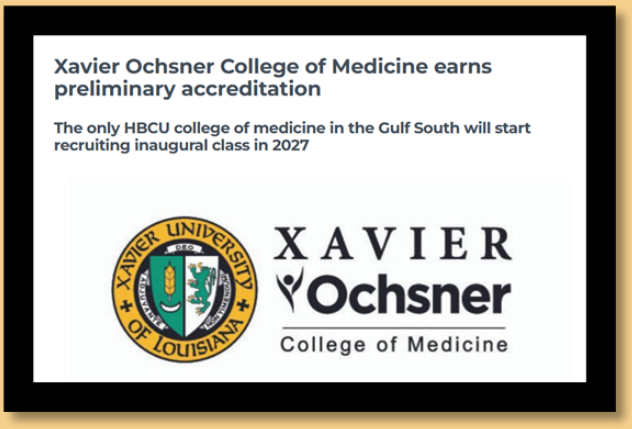
Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine earned preliminary accreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education in October

Since its founding in 2020, the Ochsner Xavier Institute for Health Equity and Research (OXIHER) has helped strengthen the partnership between Ochsner Health and Xavier University of Louisiana around a shared commitment to improving community health and health outcomes across Louisiana. Today, that foundation is helping shape how the Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine, which will open its doors to its first class of students in 2027, incorporates community into its strategy and identity.

The College of Medicine's Office of Community Empowerment is leveraging OXIHER's expertise and infrastructure in community engagement, outcomes research, workforce development and health advocacy to advance the College of Medicine's broader commitment to authentic community partnership and accountability.

The Office of Community Empowerment (OCE) is leading efforts to help shape excellence in medical education, research, clinical practice, and service that is grounded in priorities of the communities which the College of Medicine serves. Key community stakeholder groups with which the OCE is collaborating include faith-based, civic, educational, healthcare, and public health advocacy organizations.

Together we build **Trust.**
Together we create **Belonging.**
Together we achieve **Excellence.**



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