LINDA BURNS BOLTON
DrPH, RN, FAAN
The Executive

Linda Burns Bolton’s passion for nursing began early in life when she spent much of her childhood in and out of hospitals for asthma treatments. “The individuals who touched my life the most were the nurses. They told me asthma would not impair me. They gave me hope and encouragement,” she said.

Linda’s career as a nurse began in 1970 when, for the first time, she experienced the death of a 16-year-old leukemia patient. “I was only three months out of school. It was a life-changing moment for me,” she said. “I was then that I knew I needed to learn more about how I could help. I am passionate about humans and how they can help each other.” And those began her quest for knowledge — a quest she compares to a tumbling and twisting river.

After earning a master’s degree in nursing and public health and a doctorate in public health, Linda became an executive at Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles. “It’s a huge responsibility, but it humbles me every second,” she said. “I have the best of all worlds. I can stay in touch with patients, nurses and doctors. I am connected to the community because of my research. And I stay connected to academia.” Through her work with the National Black Nurses Association, she is cofounder of the Community Collaboration Model, which is setting the framework for improved community health. The model focuses on the power of a community to heal itself through collective knowledge, skills and commitment. Health care providers are part of the process — the community owns it.

While her days are long and sometimes hectic, Linda spends a few moments each morning reflecting. “I thank God for sending another day. Leadership can take a physical and emotional toll on you. To be a good leader you need a sense of belonging and sense of self — where you are in the universe, what your purpose is,” she said. Her desire for reflection also takes her fishing, one of her other passions, because when you are fishing, “you are one with the water and one with nature,” she said. “I just love it.”

Linda has always believed in the potential of African Americans, and she’s working to promote nursing as a profession of choice, particularly among men. She grew up in a housing project and is particularly among men. She grew up in a housing project and is

“In health care, you can cure problems, you can re直curate, you can give medicine; but the real contribution is to find out what can prevent health problems from escalating in the first place.”

Linda Burns Bolton, DrPH, RN, FAAN
Cedars-Sinai Health System and Research Institute
Los Angeles, California

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

6 2007: Athlete Shaan Gibson sets women’s single short track speedskating record

7 1870: Cleveland Indians’ pitcher Tony “Warlord” Noga

8 1950: magnificent black troops (24th Regiment) win general

9 1965: Thurgood Marshall becomes first Afican American appointed U.S. solicitor general

10 1867: Maggie Lena Walker, first woman elected mayor of a town, born

11 1961: Elizabeth Lipford Kent became the first African American female president of a bank, born

12 1953: Jesse D. Locker appointed U.S. ambassador to Liberia

13 1688: The Quakers in Germantown, Pennsylvania

14 1892: Andrew J. Beard patents rotary engine


16 1937: Actor, comedian Bill Cosby born

17 1807: Shakespearean actor Ira Aldridge performs first successful open-heart operation

18 1998: African American Civil War Soldiers Battle of Monmouth (New Jersey)

19 1974: Rev. Patrick Francis Healy inaugurated as president of Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

20 1868: 14th Amendment, granting blacks full citizenship rights, becomes part of the Constitution

21 2000: Venus Williams wins women’s singles championship at Wimbledon.

22 1939: Jane M. Bolin of New York City appointed first African American female judge

23 1896: Mary Church Terrell elected first African American woman to a state legislature


26 2000: African American Women’s Suffrage Bill introduced in Congress

27 1893: Dr. Daniel Hale Williams performs first successful open-heart operation

28 1865: Civil Rights Act into law

29 1955: Elizabeth Lipford Kent was the first African American female president of a bank

30 1993: Linda Burnes Bolton named CEO of the Cedars-Sinai Health System and Research Institute

31 1867: Frederick Douglass named U.S. minister to Haiti

JULY03