

# CITY SUBURBAN NEWS

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## CELEBRATING THE “DREAM”

PCOM honors MLK and students, faculty and alumni who seek to improve the lives of others

The Office of Diversity and Compliance at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) hosted its annual “I am the Dream” awards ceremony on Feb. 26, held in honor of the lives and legacies of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and of PCOM alumnus William M. King, DO, who worked tirelessly to improve the lives of his patients and the larger Philadelphia community.

Regina Benjamin, MD, the 18th U.S. surgeon general, served as the keynote speaker at the ceremony, which recognized students and faculty who have made a positive impact on the lives of others, and have demonstrated excellence in

*PCOM fourth-year DO students Olivia Menardy and Jameel Shareef, two winners of the Student of Merit award, pose with their statues.*



their own personal and professional lives. This year's recipients were:

- Barbara Williams-Page, DO – winner of the Distinguished Alumni Award.
- Judith A. Lightfoot, DO, FACOI – winner of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy Award.
- Yuma Tomes, PhD – winner of the Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award.
- J. Steven Blake, DO, MSc. – winner of the William M. King, DO Award.
- Olivia Menardy, Jameel Shareef, and Michael Stefanowicz, DO class of 2016 – winners of the Student of Merit awards.
- Israel Benjamin, DO class of 2019 – winner of the 2016 William M. King, DO Endowed Minority Scholarship.

Mr. Benjamin was the inaugural recipient of that scholarship, which goes to benefit African-American osteopathic medical students who hail from the Philadelphia area. That scholarship was established through funds given to the College by the William M. King Charitable Foundation, a nonprofit that supports organizations, programs and causes that seek

to enrich the quality of life for African-Americans and other underserved audiences.

Earlier in the day, Dr. Benjamin met with students to discuss leadership roles in the changing field of healthcare. “For us to become a healthier nation, it’s going to require leadership,” she said. “That leadership starts right here in this room.”