Alma Littles, M.D., Receives Community and National Accolades

Alma Littles, M.D., Treasurer of the Tallahassee Memorial Board of Directors and Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education and Academic Affairs of the Florida State University College of Medicine, has recently received two significant honors.

Capital Medical Society selected Dr. Littles as the Outstanding Physician Award Winner for 2014, and Black Health Magazine has named her one of the Top 15 African American Medical Educators in the United States. The first award was presented to Dr. Littles during Capital Medical Society’s Twelfth Annual Celebration Awards Dinner in late March, while the second honor was announced in Black Health Magazine’s Sixth Annual Commemorative Black History Month issue.

Dr. Littles’ passion for medical education and providing care to patients in underserved regions is clear, not only in these recent accolades, but throughout the span of her entire career.

“Dr. Littles is the consummate champion for expanding access to healthcare across our region, particularly for the underserved population. Very few fully understand the tremendous impact she has had in shaping our medical community for the better. We are forever indebted to Alma for her vision of service, dedication to quality, and compassion for those in her care,” says Mark O’Bryant, Tallahassee Memorial President & Chief Executive Officer.

Having grown up in the rural and medically underserved community of Quincy, Florida, Dr. Littles determined at a young age that she would become a physician. After earning her medical degree from the University of Florida College of Medicine, Dr. Littles completed her residency training through the Tallahassee Memorial Family Medicine Residency Program. She then returned to her hometown to establish a practice in family medicine in 1989. During these early years in her medical education and career, Dr. Littles was already exploring her interest in teaching, first by taking younger medical students under her wing while in medical school, later by serving as Chief Resident at the Tallahassee Memorial Family Medicine Residency Program and finally by mentoring residents and students in her medical practice.

Dr. Littles went on to serve in a variety of leadership positions in state and national medical organizations before returning to the Tallahassee Memorial Family Medicine Residency Program as a faculty member in 1996. She served as Director of the program from 1999 to 2002. In her current role at the FSU College of Medicine, Dr. Littles is influential in identifying and inspiring students who hope to practice rural medicine, a focus of her career and the college.

“Part of my decision to take my current position with the FSU College of Medicine was seeing that the program’s mission perfectly matched with mine,” she says. “As a medical educator, I love interacting with students, seeing them succeed, and, most of all, knowing they will be able to provide medical care to more people than I would ever be able to on my own.”