

Alumnus named CEO of New Orleans East Hospital

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The view from his office window of the hospital's construction site serves as a daily reminder of the work that lies ahead. For Mario Garner, a Tulane University alumnus and the new CEO of New Orleans East Hospital, the work ahead includes building a reputation for quality health care for the city's residents.



Tulane alumnus Mario Garner stands before the hospital he is prepared to lead. The \$130 million renovation of the hospital will be complete in spring 2014. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

Since 2005, those living in Eastern New Orleans have been without a full-service hospital. Now, residents can see light at the end of the tunnel in the form of a \$130 million renovation set for completion in spring 2014.

"I have a unique opportunity to reestablish a hospital that was severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina," says Garner, who earned his master's degree in healthcare administration from the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and a doctorate in administration and supervision from the University of Houston. "I'm committed to assuring a top-performing community hospital that provides quality health care to anyone who needs it."

Upon the announcement of Garner's hiring, city health commissioner Dr. Karen

DeSalvo said that Garner is a strong executive, which is critical to a successful hospital.

“The board had its pick among several excellent choices, and we're thrilled that Mario has joined our team,” said DeSalvo, who received her medical degree and a master of public health degree from Tulane University. “We look forward to working together to restore critical health services that the New Orleans East community needs and deserves.”

Garner, a native of Lake Charles, La., says he is thrilled to be back in Louisiana. Past positions he has held include the role of chief operating officer at Fairview Park Hospital in Dublin, Ga.; COO at the Regional Medical Center of Acadiana in Lafayette, La.; associate administrator at West Houston Medical Center in Houston and administrative resident at Tulane University Hospital.