

# Your influence can make all the difference...

Help encourage black students to become physicians or pursue other health-related careers. Black medical professionals are needed to serve as role models for interested youngsters in middle and high school, as well as college and medical school, and share their backgrounds and expertise.

*...and help  
change a life.*

*To learn more about  
mentoring opportunities,  
please contact:*

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## Blue Ribbon Task Force Members

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Valentine Burroughs, M.D.  
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Hon. Andrea Stewart Cousins  
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**For more information on Blue Ribbon Task Force programs or to order a copy of the Task Force report, go to [www.westchestergov.com/health](http://www.westchestergov.com/health) or contact the Division of Community Health at (914) 813-5227.**

Westchester  
gov.com

Andrew J. Spano, Westchester County Executive  
County Board of Legislators



## Be a Mentor

**Join Westchester County's  
effort to inspire black students  
to pursue careers in  
health professions**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Joshua Lipsman, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., Commissioner

## WHAT IS THE BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE MENTORING INITIATIVE?



In 2005, I appointed a Blue Ribbon Task Force of experts in health-related fields to identify the health care disparities occurring among black residents in Westchester and to provide recommendations for ways to address these issues.

Research was conducted and key findings were outlined in the 2006 Blue Ribbon Task Force report, "Health Disparities Among Blacks in Westchester: A Snapshot." The Task Force made three key recommendations, one of which was the need to increase the number of black physicians and health professionals in Westchester County.

Westchester County has since funded a multi-faceted Mentoring Initiative program that builds on the strengths of existing programs and partnerships between schools, hospitals and professional-, faith- and community-based organizations. It is my hope that this project will encourage more black students to enter healthcare careers.

Andrew J. Spano  
Westchester County Executive

## Who can become a mentor?

Anyone who is an accomplished black health care professional and interested in serving as a volunteer role model for students is eligible to become a mentor. Other professionals who can share the importance of excelling in science and math can also be key resources. Research has shown that role models can make a tremendous impact on the interest and achievement levels for students at all levels. The time commitment is flexible.

## What does a mentor do?

**There are two ways you can be involved:**

### Join the Mentors Speakers Bureau.

Mentors volunteer to give presentations to students on their careers, roles and responsibilities, academic requirements and other pertinent information related to their field. The number of presentations required is flexible and boilerplate guidelines are available.

### Be an Individual Mentor.

Mentors interact one-on-one with a student once each month for 45 minutes to 1 hour for up to 6 months. Mentors may provide a "shadowing opportunity" for a student in the workplace, assist with a research project or provide career development advice and guidance.

**Join us!**

**The program has already recruited more than 35 health professionals to participate in the Speakers Bureau or work one-on-one with youngsters. More than 800 students have been involved.**

### Volunteers include:

Cheryl Archbald, M.D., MPH, FAAP  
Pediatrician  
Deputy Commissioner, Division of Community Health, Westchester County Department of Health

Rosa K. Barksdale, R. N.  
Barksdale Healthcare Services, CEO

E. Sabrinah Chapman-Montgomery, Ph.D.  
Siemens Medical Solutions Diagnostics  
Staff Scientist

Terry Doswell, R.N., CCM

Suzanne Greenidge, M.D. FACOG  
Woman to Woman Obstetrician & Gynecology

Mona L. Jean, M.D., Pediatrics

Geraldine King, MS, RN, CNA  
Founder, Westchester Black Nurses Association

Caroline Shepard, D.D.S., RDH  
Owner, Tranquillity Dental

Meredith Sirmans, M.D.  
Obstetrician & Gynecology  
President, Society of Black Physicians Westchester & New York

Susan Stukes, DDS,  
Dentist

