



BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE MENTORING INITIATIVE UPDATE

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& Program Administrator

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Greetings!

I trust you have received my holiday card and warm wishes for a Healthy & Happy New Year. It has truly been a pleasure working with you and I feel as though we have accomplished a lot.

This NEWSBRIEF is designed to give you a quick update on past and upcoming Mentoring Initiative Activities.

I have been in touch with many of you individually,

**It Takes a
Village:
Growing
More Black
Physicians
One Student
at a Time!**

As you know, in
2005 County
Executive Andy

but wanted to ensure that I gave you all an official update.

I value and appreciate your input and support. I also, look forward to your active involvement and support of future Mentoring Initiative activities and events.

I hope you will respond affirmatively to participate in our presentation and mentoring series. You can sign-up to give a simple presentation or become a mentor. By interfacing with a student, as little as once per month, over a six month time-frame your mentoring could make a tremendous impact.

I extend special thanks to Dr. Meredith Sirmans for his on-going active support and for being a role model around this collaborative initiative.

Please don't hesitate to call or send me an e-mail if you have any questions or suggestions.

(Photo above Commerce Career Fair: Dr. Sirmans, Dr. Hernandez, Principal, Dr. Chapman-Montgomery & Cheryl Brannan)

QUICK UPDATES

- "Commerce Middle School Career Day" ~Yonkers~ December 2006
- Black History Month Programs & Mentoring Opportunities
- March Events & Activities (partial listing)

"Commerce Middle School Career Day" ~Yonkers~ December 2006



On December 6th, three Black doctors participated in the Commerce Middle School Career Fair with over 400 students.

The doctors included Dr. Meredith Sirmans Ob/Gyn, Mt. Vernon; Dr. Suzanne Greenidge, Ob/Gyn Yonkers; (left in photo) and Dr. E. Sabrinah Chapman-Montgomery, Staff Scientist, at Siemens Medical Solutions Diagnostics (right in photo)

They received a great reception from the principal and were a "big hit" with the students. I was also able to arrange to have Dr. Chapman featured on the Channel 12 evening news during the report on the event. She did a fabulous job! Special thanks to all of our doctors for their support of this event and on-going Mentoring Initiative.

Black History Month Programs & Mentoring Opportunities

Spano appointed a Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) to review health disparities among Blacks in Westchester County. The Blue Ribbon Task Force made specific recommendations to County Executive Spano, including the creation of a Mentoring Initiative geared toward increasing the number of Black physicians in Westchester County.

As the consultant retained on this project, I designed a multi-faceted Mentoring Initiative that builds on the strengths of existing programs and establishes partnerships between schools, hospitals, professional and community based organizations. The Mentoring Initiative is geared toward Black students, and is being launched in the Yonkers and New Rochelle School Systems, as well as with medical students at NY Medical College.

The Westchester County Mentoring Initiative will add value to existing programs by identifying

Friday, February 9th - Isaac Young Middle School ~ 270 Centre Avenue~ 10:00 am - 11:30 am~ School Assembly "Black American Inventors & Black Americans in the field of Science and Medicine" By: E. Sabrinah Chapman- Montgomery Ph.D. , Siemens Medical Solutions Diagnostics, Staff Scientist

Saturday, February 10th - Gorton High School ~ 100 Shonnard Place, Yonkers, NY~ 9:30 - 12:00 noon < "Black Doctors, Nurses & Other Health Professionals: Future Career Options" ~ Presented by : Geraldine King, MS, RN, CNA, Nurse Manager, Founder, Westchester Black Nurses & Dr. Meredith Sirmans, Ob/Gyn & President of Society of Black Physicians of Westchester and New York as well as others.

March Events & Activities (partial listing)

March 19, 2007 ~ 10:00 am~ at the Isaac Young Middle School, New Rochelle "Bright Smiles & Bright Futures in Dentistry" Presented by: Caroline Shepard, DDS New Rochelle;

resources and personnel to support the implementation of current programs. The Mentoring Initiative will also place emphasis on Black student participation and achievement in medical careers, especially geared towards doctors. I will also recommend recognition for successful programs, share best practices and hope to expand the initiative in the future.

Many of the partners that are supporting the success of this new initiative are Blue Ribbon Task Force Members, including Meredith Sirmans, M.D, President of the Society of Black Physicians of Westchester & New York; John Spicer, CEO of Sound Shore Medical Center, in New Rochelle; Jim Foy, President St. Johns Riverside Hospital, in Yonkers along with various other distinguished members of the Blue Ribbon Task Force.

I am also networking and exploring other creative opportunities and partnerships within and outside the

county, including
working with the
esteemed Dorothy
Orr to develop
potential alliances
with Black
Colleges.

Quick Links...

[BRTF Report](#)

[Westchester County
Department of
Health](#)

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