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**COUNTY OFFERS STUDENTS A NEW E-TOOL TO HELP THEM PURSUE MEDICAL CAREERS
Minority Medical Professionals Needed As Mentors**

Building on the overwhelming response to Westchester County's Dare to be a Doctor conference for minority middle and high school students last month, County Executive Andy Spano plans to hold more mentoring forums throughout the coming year.

To help the more than 550 students of color who attended the conference and are considering a career in medicine stay connected with medical professionals who can guide them on their path toward success, Westchester County is introducing a new e-tool. Students can sign up at www.westchestergov.com/daretobeadoctor to stay informed about future forums and activities. This will help students keep their eyes on the prize of a bright future in medicine. They will receive e-invites to future forums with health care professionals who will share their passion for healing and speak about selected topics relating to the medical field.

"The Dare to Be a Doctor conference was a tremendous success," said County Executive Andy Spano. "I am thrilled that so many of our young people who attended were inspired by the medical professionals who participated and are considering a career in the medical profession. Together, let's keep the momentum going and improve the health and career opportunities for all Westchester residents."

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To build on this success, Spano is calling on more African American and Hispanic medical professionals to pave the way for the next generation of doctors by becoming mentors. Westchester County's Dare to be a Doctor program is looking for accomplished African American and Hispanic physicians, dentists, pharmacists and other health care professionals to volunteer their time as student mentors, either one-on one or through the county's speakers bureau. For more information and to join, go to www.westchestergov.com/daretobeadoctor.

The Dare to Be a Doctor conference was part of a countywide mentoring initiative recommended last year by the [Blue Ribbon Task Force](#) on Health Care Disparities. Headlined by nationally renowned Drs. Sampson Davis, Rameck Hunt and George Jenkins, known as "The Three Doctors," the conference included interactive presentations by more than 20 prominent African-American and Hispanic health care professionals, and a variety of educational exhibits. More than 200 parents and 550 students participated. The conference's goal was to encourage more minorities to become physicians to help provide equal access to health care for all.