



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WESTCHESTER HOSTS “DARE TO BE A DOCTOR” CONFERENCE FOR MINORITY STUDENTS
Nationally renowned New Jersey doctors inspire teens with their true stories**

Have you ever dreamed you could save lives, find the cure for cancer or prevent the spread of disease?

Dare To Be A Doctor. You Can Do It.

County Executive Andy Spano is calling on minority middle and high school students to listen to their hearts and dream big at the ***Rx for Success: Dare To Be A Doctor*** career conference on Saturday, October 18, at the Westchester County Center in White Plains.

“We know the road to becoming a doctor is not easy. It takes equal parts inspiration and determination,” Spano said. “That’s why we called upon ‘The Three Doctors’ to talk about how they overcame adversity and achieved great success. Their inspiring stories will help us open the door to the medical profession for African American and Hispanic students and motivate more of them to consider a career in medicine.”

Drs. Sampson Davis, Rameck Hunt and George Jenkins, who are known as “The Three Doctors,” will be the keynote speakers. The nationally renowned African American doctors will share their experiences growing up fatherless on the streets of Newark, making a pact in high school and accomplishing their dreams.

Today, “The Three Doctors” are also the authors of three books, “The Pact,” “We Beat the Street” and “The Bond,” which have motivated thousands of young people to persevere despite the challenges they face.

Spano noted that the ***Dare To Be A Doctor*** career conference grew out of his Blue Ribbon Task Force on Healthcare Disparities, which concluded that more minorities need to be represented in the medical and health professions to improve the quality of healthcare for communities of color.

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“By inspiring today’s teenagers to become physicians, *Dare To Be A Doctor* is a step in that direction,” Spano added.

During the conference, students will participate in workshops conducted by more than 20 prominent African American and Hispanic physicians who represent a wide range of specialties from cardiology to orthopedic surgery. They will peek behind the scenes at a day in the life of a health professional and have an opportunity to speak one-on-one with doctors about their careers. Then, students can visit the exhibit area, where they can sign up for a mentor, learn more about volunteer and internship programs and find out about financial aid. The program will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

“This is a very forward thinking program that we hope will sow the seeds for a new generation of African-American and Hispanic doctors,” said Dr. Joshua Lipsman, Westchester County’s health commissioner. “We’re very excited to have “The Three Doctors” headline this important event.”

The conference was made possible through generous donations from these sponsors: Westchester Medical Center, Hudson Health Plan, Affinity Health Plan, Sound Shore Medical Center, Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network, Phelps Memorial Hospital Center and United Way of Westchester and Putnam.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided to every student who participates. Round-trip MetroCards are also being offered to students to assure that lack of transportation will not prevent them from attending.

Parents are welcome to attend. Students can register through their school or at www.westchestergov.com/daretobeadoctor, where they also can find more information on the conference.

The Westchester County Center is located at the junction of Tarrytown Road, Central Avenue and the Bronx River Parkway in White Plains.

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