

Dare to be a Doctor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

help inspire other youth.

The career day program is one of many activities to come from the county's Blue Ribbon Task Force which works to eliminate health care disparities that adversely affect black people.

A 2007 report identified the need for more education, advocacy and promotion of medical careers to students of color.

The October event is expected to attract more than 200 teens who want to learn about health careers from minority physicians. Workshops include what it takes to become a doctor, how to finance a career in the medical field, what it's like to be a doctor and many more. There will also be many exhibitors.

Minority- and Women-Owned Businesses

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for all Request for Proposals issued by the county. Because they will now be categorized by subject, potential providers will be able to easily find the RFP's that pertain to their business. Once the program rolls out with details on how to register, firms can be notified via e-mail when an RFP is published that fits their business needs.

Previously a business owner would have to figure out where their services might be needed and approach the individual departments.

"It was hard to navigate through that system. The new program will be much more user friendly," said Spano, who has committed to

increasing participation of M/WOB's and doing a complete overhaul of the current program. There will also be more training opportunities for firms that want to learn how to do business with the county and more outreach to locate additional providers.

Another obstacle has been removed for small businesses by waiving bid bonds for bids under \$100,000. Previously, businesses had to obtain a bid bond costing about \$300 in order to submit a proposal, said Tracey Mitchell, who oversees the program. The purpose was to make sure firms keep to their bids if they get the job but such an up front expense for a proposal can be difficult for a small business. Therefore, in an effort to make it easier for M/WOB's and others the county is putting in place a waiver for bids under \$100,000. The program will be formally launched in the summer. Stay tuned!

4

SANKOFA

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Andrew J. Spano, Westchester County Executive

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Dare to be a Doctor

CAREER DAY WILL HELP TEENS

Local youth will have a chance to learn about career opportunities in medicine as well as get personal inspiration from three doctors who defied the odds at this fall's medical career day for middle and high school students.

The "Rx for Success: Dare to Be a Doctor" event, scheduled for Oct. 18 at the County Center, will offer workshops that focus on how to pursue a career in the medical field and give an idea of the day-to-day experiences of health care professionals.

Three black doctors who grew up in Newark, New Jersey, will give the opening presentation.

Samson Davis, George Jenkins and Rameck Hunt made a pact when they were 16 to make something of themselves and become doctors. They knew firsthand the struggles of life in the inner city but were determined not to become victims of their environment.

Together they became a remarkable story of success and now run the Three Doctors Foundation to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Samson Davis, George Jenkins and Rameck Hunt will be at the County Center on October 18 for a workshop that will expose local youth to career opportunities in medicine.

Attention all Minority- and Women-Owned Businesses

Making an effort to get more minority- and women-owned companies to do business with Westchester, County Executive Andy Spano is launching a new program to make it easier to bid on county contracts.

The new Minority- and Women-Owned Business Program will create a centralized web listing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



A new program will make bidding on county contracts easier for minority- and women-owned companies.

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3

Trailblazer Awards
Faces & Places
Community Tour

2

Blueprint for Change
Know Your History
Soul Food Cookouts

IN THIS ISSUE

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Blueprint for Change
Know Your History
Soul Food Cookouts

2

Community Tour
Faces & Places
Trailblazer Awards

3

1

Working Towards a "Blueprint for Change"

AAAB PREPARES FOR FALL SUMMIT

The African American Advisory Board held its first "Blueprint for Change" workshop focusing on education underperformance, health and human services, economic barriers and the housing shortage. Invited guests gathered at Purchase College on January 19 to discuss ways to address these issues. The Board will conduct another focus group on June 21 which will then shape their final presentation of a "Summit" event in early fall which will focus on setting policies and priorities affecting African Americans.

Anyone interested in joining a focus group can call the Office of African American Affairs at (914)995-2925.



Know Your History

QUESTIONS

1. Who was the first black to graduate from a school of dentistry?
2. Who was the first black to receive a medical degree from an American college?
3. Who was the first black woman to become head of a bank?
4. Who was the first black to have a seat on the New York Stock Exchange?
5. Who was the first African American elected to the medical society?
6. The first African American to receive the Nobel Peace Prize?
7. When did Africans first "settle" in America?

- ANSWERS
1. Robert T. Freeman at Harvard. 1867
 2. James Hall from Maine Medical College. 1822.
 3. Maggie Walker of Richmond Virginia.
 4. Clarence Jones. 1967.
 5. John V. DeGrasse in Massachusetts. 1854.
 6. U.N. negotiator Ralph Bunche. 1950.
 7. 1526. They arrived in what is now South Carolina, near the Pee Dee River-nearly 100 years before Jamestown, VA, as part of a settlement from Hispaniola. The slaves ran off and joined the Indians.



Soul Food Cookouts 2008

Westchester County will continue hosting Soul Food Cook-Outs this year as a way to continue promoting healthy eating and health screenings.

2008 schedule

May 31
Peekskill
across from City Hall
11 noon to 3 p.m.

Food prepared by
Northern BOCES Culinary Program

June 8

Mt. Vernon
Memorial Field
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Food prepared by
MacMenamin's Grill & Chefworks

Spano Starts Community Tour

County Executive Andy Spano is visiting many community organizations throughout Westchester. His first stops were to the Yonkers Employment Center, Yonkers Chamber of Commerce, Cluster, Inc. and the Educational Opportunity Center in Yonkers. He met with directors, staff and participants and learned more about how the agencies serve the community. Stay tuned for a visit coming your way.



County Executive Andy Spano, Legislator Ken Jenkins and staff of the Yonkers Employment Center

Teens Take Honor

Lincoln High School in Yonkers should be especially proud of two teen entrepreneurs, Neville Green and Maurine Korenteng, who are being honored as Global Young Entrepreneurs of the Year.

The teens, co-owners of "Especially Yours," were students in the financial services careers program when they noticed a need for resume assistance and job interview skills by their peers. They put together a consulting firm and began offering such services. Their business now helps adults as well as teens.

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Faces and Places

Trailblazers

This year's Trailblazer's event was the best one yet. More than 600 people attended the February program at Manhattanville College.

Awards were presented to: Terrie M. Williams, a public relations pro, author and advocate for youth; James P. McQuay, the first black furrier in the US; Mary Dudley Spells for her commitment to educating youth; Dr. Kenneth Forde, a surgeon that helped pioneer the use of endoscopy; Gloria Jean and Jerry Pinkney, who have created quality books for children and adults; and William E. Shands, an affordable housing advocate who was recognized posthumously.

Attendees received a sneak preview of the county's upcoming video that will highlight Westchester's African American Heritage Trail. Once completed, the video will be distributed to local schools.



Middle: The winners with County Executive Andy Spano. Bottom: James McQuay (center) with his son Jamal and wife Doris.