

Retaining Minorities in Health Professions Education Programs

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The March 22, 2006 New York State AHEC System Advisory Board meeting held in Albany included presentations by Wilma Waith, PhD, RD, CDN, Director of Office of Minority Health, New York State Department of Health; Marc Nivet, MS, Chief Operating Officer, Josiah Macy Foundation; and Deborah Harmon-Hines, PhD, Associate Vice Chancellor for School Services, University of Massachusetts Medical School.

The speakers addressed the challenges of retaining minority students in health professions programs.

A panel presentation featured Assie Bishop, EdS, Assistant Dean for Student and Minority Affairs, Albany Medical College, and Elaine

Cusker, PhD, Assistant Dean, School of Nursing, University at Buffalo, who provided perspectives on the challenges and successes of minority student retention. Small group discussions followed regarding the role for AHEC in the retention of minorities in health professions education programs. The suggestions from the small groups will be further developed by the New York State AHEC System to meet community needs.



Assie Bishop, EdS, Assistant Dean for Student and Minority Affairs, Albany Medical College; and Marc Nivet, MS, Chief Operating Officer, Josiah Macy Foundation.



Wilma Waith, PhD, RD, CDN, Director of Office of Minority Health, New York State Department of Health; Gabrielle Kersaint, MSPH, Executive Director, Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island AHEC; Deborah Harmon-Hines, PhD, Associate Vice Chancellor for School Services, University of Massachusetts Medical School; and Mary Mitchell, MPA, Executive Director, Manhattan-Staten Island AHEC.