

Connecting Students to Careers, Professionals to Communities, and Communities to Better Health

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The September 21, 2005 New York State AHEC System Advisory Board meeting held in Albany focused on “Recruiting Minorities into Health Professions Education Programs.”

The agenda included presentations: Introduction to the Connection between Health Disparities and Minority Health Providers—Wilma Waithe, PhD, RD, CDN, Director of Office of Minority Health, New York State Department of Health; Status of Minorities in Health Professions Programs: Current Data and Future Projections—Diane Hauser, MPA, Institute for Urban Family Health; Minority Recruitment Initiatives—Jo Wiederhorn, MSW, Executive Director, Associated Medical Schools of New York; and School of Health Professions Perspective—Dawn Morton-Rias, EdD, PA-C, Dean, College of Health Related Professions, SUNY Downstate Medical Center.

The “Student Perspective: Putting a Face to the Numbers” panel featured Albany Medical College first year students Herminia Amezwa, Veronica

Gonzalez and Ruth Morgan, and second year student, Afari Dwamena as moderated by Assie Bishop, EdS, Assistant Dean for Student and Minority Affairs, Albany Medical College. The students addressed 1) the preparation that enabled them to consider a career in medicine, 2) assistance that would be helpful in the admissions process, and 3) the climate of admissions offices and schools toward under represented minorities.

Small group discussions followed regarding the role for AHEC in minority recruitment and enrollment into health professions programs. The suggestions from the small groups will be further developed by the New York State AHEC System to meet community needs. A follow up meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2006 to further focus on recruitment and retention issues.



Left to right: Mary Craig, Herminia Amezwa, Ruth Morgan, Afari Dwamena, Veronica Gonzalez, and Assie Bishop, EdS.