

Rutgers New Jersey Medical School Empowers Young Black and Latino Men Through the “I Am My Brother’s Keeper” Male Empowerment Conference

According to a report entitled “Keeping Youth Connected, Focus on Newark, CLASP, August 2011,” 33 percent of Newark children younger than 18 live in poverty in comparison to 13 percent in New Jersey; and 29 percent of Newark homicide victims are age 24 or younger. Additionally, in 2008, there were 48 births per 1,000 Newark teen-mothers as compared to 18 per 1,000 in the State.

“Black and Latino male youth of Newark face complex challenges regarding their safety, education, and professional development, which also affects our ability to develop a diverse health care workforce,” states Maria Soto-Greene, MD, Vice Dean and Director of the Hispanic Center of Excellence at New Jersey Medical School (NJMS).

In accordance with its mission to promote the development and academic excellence of young minority men, the NJMS Office for Diversity and Community Engagement (ODACE) along with the Sigma Community Enrichment (SCEI) Initiative and the Newark Mentoring Movement hosted the second annual **“I Am My Brother’s Keeper” Male Empowerment Conference on December 12, 2015.**

Dr. Torian Easterling, a 2007 NJMS alumnus who is Assistant Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Human Hygiene attended and facilitated a workshop. Medical students and community leaders, including Jenabu Williams, President, SCEI conducted seven interactive workshops focusing on empowerment, safety, and education. In the “Dress for Success” session, participants were given tips on dressing for college and job interviews and were given an item of clothing (dress suit, dress shirt, neck tie, dress belt) for their professional wardrobe.

“We believe this conference, and future collaborations with community partners, have helped us recruit and retain young minority males in our academic enrichment programs, including the Science, Medicine and Related Topics (SMART) program and the Summer Youth Scholars Program (SYSP), so that we can help develop the next generation of health care providers,” says Mercedes Padilla-Register, MA, research associate at the NJMS Hispanic Center of Excellence.

To view photos from the event go to:

<https://share.shutterfly.com/action/welcome?sid=0Bas27Zw0aMm8L>

Endless Possibilities Video: <https://www.gofundme.com/endlesspossibility>

To learn more about the NJMS Office of Diversity and Community Engagement go to: <http://njms.rutgers.edu/education/odace/index.cfm> or call (973) 972-3762