



A Research Center at the University at Albany, SUNY

## CEMHD Participates in Capital District Summit on Black Men and Boys



From left to right: Gregory Owens, Wilma Alvarado-Little, Ken Braswell, Sidney Hankerson and UAlbany President Robert Jones

From April 25 to 27, an important summit on empowering black men and boys took place at various locations around the Capital District. The summit provided important information for both the general community and policy makers, and was so successful that the organizers are planning to make it an annual event. Co-sponsors included Macedonia Baptist Church, the Black Child Development Institute, Fathers Inc., Schenectady County Community College, and CEMHD.

Events kicked off with a screening of *Hoodwinked*, a documentary film that uses statistical evidence to dispel common myths about black males. The film's star and producer, Janks Morton, led a lively discussion with audience members afterward.

Dr. Sidney Hankerson, a psychiatrist who teaches at Columbia University, gave the keynote address on mental health issues among black men and boys at a conference for local policy makers

and members of the region's education and faith-based communities. The conference also featured a presentation by Ken Braswell, Executive Director of Fathers Inc., on the Urban Institute's recent revisit of the 1965 Moynihan Report, and a group dialogue on local policies related to black male empowerment.

Macedonia Baptist Church hosted an evening program of spoken word and song to honor local advocates who dedicate their time to encouraging black males to seek excellence.

The summit concluded with an all-day workshop that began with a keynote speech by Leonard Dunston, former president of the National Association of Black Social Workers, Inc. Participants discussed issues involved in rebuilding neighborhoods and communities, and took part in breakout sessions to discuss topics including faith, education, health and wellness, the black family, and youth.

# Newsletter

## Spring/Summer 2013

### IN THIS ISSUE

*CEMHD Participates in Capital District Summit on Black Men and Boys* p. 1

*New Internship Program* p. 1

*CEMHD Researchers Honored with President's Award for Exemplary Community Engagement* p. 2

*Outreach Core Director Attends White House Event* p. 2

### New Internship Program

In response to student demand, the Center has created an internship program in partnership with SNUG ("guns" spelled backwards), the Trinity Alliance's anti gun violence program, and the Department of Communication.

In the fall semester, student interns will be participating in activities to help implement a public relations campaign being developed by Communication professors Annis Golden, Matthew Matsaganis, and Mihye Seo, along with Muriel Scott, a graduate student. This summer, they will be conducting focus groups to determine the best strategies to use in the campaign.

Students from the group Doctors for Hope will be the first interns in the program, but we welcome all undergraduate and graduate students to participate.

Anyone interested in being a CEMHD/SNUG intern should contact Dr. Elizabeth Campisi at: [ecampisi@albany.edu](mailto:ecampisi@albany.edu).

### CEMHD Researchers Honored with President's Award for Exemplary Community Engagement

On May 13, President Robert Jones honored a CEMHD research effort called the Women's Health Project with one of this year's community engagement awards.

The award is given to partnerships between UAlbany and local community groups that work to meet important public needs in the Capital Region and beyond. A total of nine partnerships were honored this year. The awards are part of President Jones' efforts to advance the UAlbany's progress as a community-engaged research university.

Professors Annis Golden and Matthew Matsaganis of the Dept. of Communication lead the project in partnership with Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood and other community organizations. They use community-based participatory research methodologies to guide the design of strategies to help low-income, underserved women in Hudson overcome barriers to reproductive healthcare.

The project focuses on strengthening individual connections to community-based health and human service organizations. It has also trained peer health educators who have had great success making personal contact with women in the community.



From left to right: Annis Golden, Jacqueline Fason, Arylee Ojmu, Tiffany Garriga, Barbara Hall, and Anita Pomerantz.

The high quality of the Women's Health Project was one of the reasons UAlbany included CEMHD in its winning application for the 2013 President's Honor Roll for Community Service. In addition to the Women's Health Project, two other CEMHD research efforts were part of the application: an Outreach Core initiative led by Wilma Alvarado-Little, "Young Moms on a Mission," aimed at young parents in Amsterdam, and a pilot project in Schenectady, "Exploring Cyber and Community Approaches for Glycemic Control Among Indo-Guyanese with Diabetes in Schenectady: a Feasibility Study," run by School of Public Health Professor Akiko Hosler.

### Outreach Core Director Attends White House Event

With 25 years of experience in medical interpreting, our Outreach Core director, Wilma Alvarado-Little, is an expert in the field. Last year she was chosen to serve on a committee formed to update the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care.

As a result of her contributions to the committee, Ms. Alvarado-Little was also invited to join other experts and U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services staff at an April 24th event at the White House, where the updated standards were unveiled in honor of National Minority Health Month. We extend our congratulations to her for this honor.



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### Community Partners and Supporters

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