

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Date :

Dear :

Did you know that the Western Pennsylvania region now has the highest incidence of diabetes among African Americans in the nation? We learned that one in ten Pennsylvanians were diagnosed with diabetes and in the African American community the number is one in seven. According to the American Diabetes Association in Western PA, the number is one in three African Americans have diabetes and may not know it. Diabetes currently is the fourth-leading cause of death by disease among African-Americans and is the leading cause of blindness, kidney failure and amputation, affecting nearly 15% of the U.S. non Hispanic and African American population. Clearly, diabetes is already at an epidemic level and the economic implications cannot be ignored!

The African American Chamber of Commerce of Western PA has planned opportunities to arm you with information and strategies that can help you, your workforce, and your family weather the anticipated surge in diabetes-related health care costs. We will be conducting a two year demonstration project on the awareness, prevention, and treatment/management options to help you help yourself. The workshops will benefit not only African Americans, but all small business owners and professionals. The series, entitled "Diabetes: Self Management of a Chronic Disease" will begin:

**Thursday, March 10th
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM
Manchester Bidwell Corporation
1850 Metropolitan Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15233**

Our planning team will be presenting: *Dr. Calvin Johnson, former PA Secretary of Health; Dr. Rhonda Johnson, Medical Director at Highmark; Steven B. Shivak, Executive Director The American Diabetes Association of W. PA. & Otis Story, Sr, FACHE Health Care Consultant*

There is no cost for the workshops and they are open to the public with free parking. We ask that you agree to attend the eight workshops and monitor your progress along the way. The sites will be throughout the city with healthy refreshments served. Major firms are aware that this epidemic has economic implications and are preparing to undertake combative strategies. As a resident of Western PA, we can do no less. Healthier lives make for a more productive workplace and a more productive region. We are looking forward to your participation in this important undertaking. RSVP to 412-392-0610 by March 7th, or email us at programs@aaccwp.com.

Sincerely,



Doris Carson Williams
President and CEO