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Chamber speaker greeted with standing ovation



IN APPRECIATION—University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's president and CEO Jeffrey Romoff accepts a gift from board chair Sam Stephenson and president/CEO Doris Carson Williams of the African American Chamber of Commerce.

by C. Denise Johnson
Courier Staff Writer

Still basking in a collective afterglow from the recent announcement that fulfilled the Pittsburgh Promise, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's president and CEO Jeffrey Romoff was greeted by a long and sustained ovation from the audience in affirmation of the historic feat.

Romoff terms the \$100 million announcement as "a serious wake-up call to the community."

UPMC is giving \$10 million outright and \$90 million more through a 10-year "challenge grant." UPMC will give \$1 for every \$1.50 raised elsewhere, meaning \$135 million must be raised to capture UPMC's \$90 million.

Speaking of challenges, during his brief remarks Romoff urged the audience to face the challenges of the future head on.

UPMC lives and breathes for the future of

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PHOTOS BY CHUCK AUS

SCALES OF JUSTICE FOR SEEKER OF JUSTICE—Attorney Wendell Fland acknowledges the tribute as Chamber President and CEO Doris Johnson Williams give him "the scales of justice" during the organization's ninth annual business luncheon.

Speaker gets standing ovation

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Pittsburgh and the region, he said. "Why don't we embrace the future? Why don't we all walk together and demand excellence?" questioned Romoff.

Commenting on the changing demographics in the United States, Romoff stressed, "Diversity is the fu-

ture of the country. It's not a voluntary act, it's what we must be."

Earlier, the chamber paid tribute to one of the foot soldiers in the long march to equality—Attorney Wendell Freeland—for his numerous contributions in the field of law and as a civil rights activist.