

Request for Media Coverage

Regional Enterprise Tower
425 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1330
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Contact: Deborah Parker or
Doris Carson Williams,
President & CEO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Phone: (412) 392-0610
Fax: (412) 392-0612

PRESIDENT & CEO OF HIGHMARK TO SPEAK AT THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TENTH ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING LUNCHEON

The African American Chamber of Commerce will hold its Tenth Annual Members Meeting Luncheon on May 12, 2009 at the Omni William Penn Hotel in Downtown Pittsburgh at 12:00 noon. The Keynote Speaker will be Kenneth R. Melani, M.D., President & CEO of Highmark, Inc.

Dr. Kenneth Melani began his career with Highmark 20 years ago as Corporate Medical Director in the Medical Affairs Department. He assumed his current position in 2003, overseeing the day-to-day operations of one of the largest Blue Cross Blue Shield Plans in the nation, serving more than 23 million people in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Prior to his career with Highmark, Dr. Melani served as President & CEO of West Penn Cares, Inc., a holding company for several health care ventures. He also owned a private practice in internal medicine, which he developed into a multi-location, multi-specialty group practice.

Dr. Melani is a past recipient of the Tony Coelho Award, which recognizes a commitment to hiring people with disabilities; the Allegheny Valley School District Alumni Hall of Fame Award; the Junior Achievement Golden Achievement Award, which symbolizes the organization's mission to inspire and educate young people to value free enterprise; and the Washington and Jefferson College Alumni Award for Achievement.

During the luncheon, the African American Chamber will recognize WPXI News Anchor Darieth Chisholm, and New Pittsburgh Courier Editor and Publisher Rod Doss. Their efforts, early in the Chamber's growing stages, helped galvanize the area's media community and grow the membership base from 28 paid members to now, over 500 in supporting the African American Chamber of Commerce and its members.

"Continuously improving business and professional opportunities for African American business owners and professionals"