

# AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Koppers Building  
436 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 2220  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Contact: Debbe Parker  
Email: [debbe@aaccwp.com](mailto:debbe@aaccwp.com)  
Phone: 412.392.0610

## Request for Coverage

### African American Chamber of Commerce Diabetes Workshop Concludes With Grand Finale

**(Pittsburgh, PA – November 5, 2012)** The African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania's Business Institute is set to hold a Grand Finale, concluding a two year demonstration project: Diabetes: The Silent Killer, Self -Management of a Chronic Disease. The final program in the series will be held on:

**Tuesday, November 13, 2012**

**4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

**Manchester Bidwell Corporation**

**1815 Metropolitan Street**

**Northside/Manchester**

The Grand Finale will feature guest speakers Dr. Rhonda Moore Johnson, Medical Director of Health Equity & Quality Services at Highmark, and Dr. Calvin Johnson, former Secretary of Health, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Also included in the program will be presentations to the workshop participants and attendees, and testimonials about the effects of the program on those individuals who attended.

Since November 2009, quarterly workshops have been conducted on the awareness, prevention, and treatment/management options of Diabetes with an emphasis on small business owners and professionals challenged to obtain health insurance due to pre-existing conditions, primarily Diabetes, and the economic implications Diabetes means for Southwestern Pennsylvania. More than twenty medical professionals, and nearly 250 attendees have participated in the Diabetes Workshop Series. The project featured prominent doctors and experts on diabetes from across the nation as well as the Southwestern Pennsylvania region. Among those who participated were:

- Dr. Calvin Johnson, Former Secretary of Health for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Dr. Vanessa Richardson, our region's only African American woman Endocrinologist
- Dr. Rhonda Johnson, Medical Director of Health Equity & Quality Services at Highmark
- Dr. Jeannette South-Paul, Chair of the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Family Medicine
- Dr. Susan Manzi, Chief Medical Officer of Allegheny General Hospital
- Dr. Patricia Bononi, Medical Director at the Joslin Diabetes Center in Pittsburgh. (The Joslin Diabetes Center, an internationally recognized diabetes treatment, research and education institution, one of the foremost in the nation.

Each program was held at a different venue including Allegheny General Hospital, Manchester Bidwell Corporation, UPMC's Herberman Center, and WQED Television.

Doris Carson Williams, President and CEO of the African American Chamber says the project was developed to address the high incidence of Diabetes among African Americans in this region highest in the nation, and growing concerns over the cost of health insurance to employees and employers. The analysis showed the impact the program has had throughout our region, and she plans to make the Western Pennsylvania demonstration project a national model.

~~~