

# NAMME

*National Association of Medical Minority Educators*

*An organization dedicated to improving the overall health of minority populations nationwide*



## NAMME Envoy Visits Capitol Hill

What would happen if Congress one day decided not to step in and support Title VII, and the specialty's federal funds disappeared?

It could be devastating, these drastic cuts would significantly hamper health profession schools' recruitment, retention, and professional development activities involving minority and disadvantaged students. Moreover, historically black colleges and universities would suffer more profoundly than traditionally white institutions because of their greater dependency on this funding and since these institutions have customarily played a crucial role in training individuals who eventually choose to practice in underserved areas, outcomes in health

service delivery would be impacted negatively. Dale Dirks, president of the Health and Medicine Council of Washington, a group representing patient and health professional organizations, says, "just like an academic health center is recognized for its expertise in a specific area, a minority institution needs to be recognized for its expertise in training students to work in medically underserved areas. This type of training is inherent in these institutions' missions."

### **"A Call to Action: Closing the Diversity Gap through Advocacy"**

The 30th Annual Conference of the National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc. was held from September 9-12, 2005 at the Renaissance Washington Hotel. The theme

for the meeting was "A Call to Action: Closing the Diversity Gap through Advocacy". On Monday, September 12, 2005, Thirty-two NAMME members from seventeen institutions and twelve states attended a legislative briefing on Capitol Hill, hosted by Dale Dirks. A position brief was prepared by Lisa Greenhill, Associate Executive Director for Diversity, AAMC and was distributed to congressional staffers in individual meetings. The 2005 Annual Conference allowed NAMME members to engage in critical discussions on diversifying the health professions and it provided an opportunity to heighten the awareness of our national legislators in the role they play in galvanizing programs supporting the diversity agenda (e.g. Title VII), particularly, how they impact health outcomes for People of Color in this country.

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[www.nammenational.org](http://www.nammenational.org)

## President's Notes~

**John L. Cottrell, MA**

It is with deep honor and humility that I assume the office of president for the National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc.. NAMME has a rich heritage of service to the community, and commitment to increasing the number of historically underrepresented and disadvantaged students in the health professions.

Equally important is its strong tradition of dedicated presidents. Without exception, Marc Nivet, our immediate past president, serving from 2003-2005 has exemplified these very traits, working tirelessly, and with uncompromising dedication to NAMME and its goal to increase underrepresented minorities into the health professions. I will continue to forward the essential initiatives introduced under the leadership of Marc while being deliberate and expeditious in forging new and innovative ones for the advancement of NAMME, Inc.

Accomplishments achieved during Marc's tenure, as he would attest, could not have not have been realized were it not for the support of all the NAMME Officers i.e. Executive Board and Regional Directors and the membership respectively. I

commend all of you and ask for your support during my tenure.

Moreover, I ask for your continued support of all of those directly and indirectly impacted by Hurricane Katrina. I am particularly proud of the NAMME members who have extended themselves to help our members as well as others, to tend to the basic needs of those without food and shelter. My hat is off to you and you will surely be blessed for your kindness and generosity. Further, I am touched by the collective commitment of the NAMME membership to provide financial assistance to our needy members. It is within the context of NAMME'S loving and caring nature that I continue to be proud of my association with NAMME.




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"I will continue to forward the essential initiatives..., while being deliberate and expeditious in forging new and innovative ones for the advancement of NAMME, Inc."

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Unquestionably, we have an up hill battle and will be challenged on every hand to sustain our organization. I have the utmost confidence in the membership that we can and well with collectively channel our energies, expertise and resources to prevail in advancing the cause of NAMME.

### SAVE THE DATE NATIONAL & REGIONAL CONFERENCES

#### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Westin Casuarina Las Vegas  
September 20 - 24, 2006  
Las Vegas, Nevada

#### SOUTHERN REGION

**HOTEL:** Radisson Hotel  
**DATE:** March 23-26, 2006  
**LOCATION:** Augusta, Georgia

#### CENTRAL REGION

**HOTEL:** Westin Hotel  
**DATE:** April 20-23, 2006  
**LOCATION:** Columbus, Ohio

#### NORTHEAST REGION

**HOTEL:** TBA  
**DATE:** TBA  
**LOCATION:** TBA

#### WESTERN REGION

**HOTEL:** TBA  
**DATE:** March 2-4, 2006  
**LOCATION:** Seattle, Washington

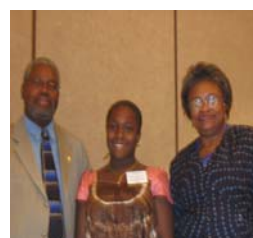
# National Conference Highlights

September 9-12, 2005  
Washington, D.C.

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w<sup>3</sup>.nammenational.org

# NAMME

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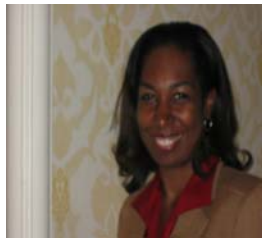


# National Conference Highlights

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# A DAY TO CELEBRATE ~December 6

## THE RATIFICATION OF THE THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT

Judge James A. Wynn, Jr.  
North Carolina Court of Appeals

December 6 marks the most significant date in African-American history - the 140th anniversary of the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, the historic proviso that officially ended slavery in America.

On that date in 1865, the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment accomplished something that neither the Emancipation Proclamation nor Juneteenth Day could do; it declared the nonexistence of slavery in the United States as the "sovereign will of the people". Indeed, Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863 was no more than a Presidential Proclamation which purported to free only "some" of the slaves--those in states that rebelled against the Union. And, in at least one of those states, Texas, the slaves did not learn of their 1863 granted freedom until the Union Army arrived there on June 19, 1865--thus, setting off what is now celebrated as Juneteenth Day. The constitutional prohibition of slavery in America came did not come about until Congress began the ratification-by-the-states process with a bill passed in January 1865. With

Georgia's approval on December 6, 1865 (North Carolina ratified it on December 4, 1865), two-thirds of the states had ratified this bill, which became the Thirteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution with the following text: Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction. Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

To be sure, in drafting the original constitution, the Framers avoided using the word "slavery". Instead, they chose to base political representation in the House of Representatives on the population of "free Persons" in each State and three-fifths of all "other Persons". Intentionally, the Framers offered no explanation for the sanctioning of slavery and the constitution's conflicting language that "all men are created equal" who are "endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights" among which are "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Nor was there any ambiguity as to whether the original constitution's phrase "We the People" included slaves. The United States Supreme Court made it clear in the 1857 Dred Scott case that Negroes were not included and were not intended to be included, "They had for more than a century before been regarded as an inferior order, and altogether

unfit to associate with the white race . . .; and so far inferior, that they had no rights which the white man was bound to respect; and that the Negro might justly and lawfully be reduced to slavery for his benefit . . . [A]ccordingly, a Negro of the African race was regarded . . . as an article of property, and held, and bought and sold as such . . ."

Clearly, neither the Emancipation Proclamation nor Juneteenth Day could overrule the Dred Scott decision. Plus, the attempt by the Emancipation Proclamation to abolish slavery in some areas remained subject to constitutional challenge, and did not preclude the institutionalization of slavery in other areas in America. To accomplish those ideals, America had to change the Constitution so as to align the laws of this

country with the ideals embodied in the Declaration of Independence. Regarding the importance of the Thirteenth Amendment in American history, Professor Sherrilyn Ifill of Maryland University School of Law comments: The significance of the 13th Amendment cannot be overstated. It (1) formed the basis for our understanding of the rights of due process, equal protection and

voting guaranteed under the 14th and 15th amendments, (2) canceled the shameful contradiction between the Preamble's inclusion of "We the People" and Article I, section 2's exclusion of some of those people as only three-fifths of a person, and (3) separated the high democratic ideals expressed by the original Framers from the inherent immorality of slavery.

In ratifying the Thirteenth Amendment, our nation embraced a legal and cultural abhorrence to involuntary servitude. All Americans should celebrate December 6 as an aspiration of this nation's commitment to the truths of the America that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. recalled as self-evident: "All men are created equal."

The holiday season begins on December 6 with our remembrance of the 140-year anniversary of the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment. It is an African-American day for celebrating the perseverance of their ancestors, and an All-American day for celebrating the victory of the human spirit over the cruelties of slavery. The day hails for our children and the world the profound proclamation that our constitution is a living document that embodies the sovereign will of a moral nation which continues to "thank God Almighty; we ain't where we use to be."

*James A. Wynn, Jr. is the Senior Associate Judge on the North Carolina Court of Appeals and is the husband of Southern Region member, Jacqueline R. Wynn of the North Carolina Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program.*

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### Health Professions Funding for Fiscal Year 2006

On November 17th, the House voted down the FY2006 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations conference report (HR3010). Members of Congress voting against the conference agreement expressed frustration that spending levels in the legislation remained too high. The vote has thrown the future of health professions programming into limbo. All programming in the Labor, health and human services and education departments is currently funded through a continuing resolution at FY05 levels.

Several scenarios exist for the resolution of this funding stalemate, including attaching the legislation to other more popular spending bills and a year-long continuing resolution at the FY05 funding levels. There is also the possibility that any continuing resolution be rewritten to fund programs at their lowest option provided in the House, Senate or FY05 levels. This option would effectively eliminate all health professions programming except the Centers of Excellence and Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students, though these programs would also weather devastating cuts.

NAMME members are encouraged to contact their members of Congress immediately with the following message: Return HR3010 to conference committee and recede to the Senate on funding for Title VII and VIII programming for FY06.

If you would like your Senator's or Representative's contact information, go to the web at:

**U.S. Senate - <http://www.senate.gov>**

**U.S. House of Representatives - <http://www.house.gov>**

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Dean of Graduate School at East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina.**

Applications and nominations for the position should be sent to Dr. Phyllis Horns, Chair of the Graduate School Dean Search Committee, East Carolina University, School of Nursing, Rivers Building, Room 133, Greenville, NC 27858-4353. Electronic submissions should be forwarded to [hornsp@ecu.edu](mailto:hornsp@ecu.edu). Review of candidates will begin January 3, 2006, and continue until the position is filled.

### **University of Nebraska seeks applicants for: Associate to the President/Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs for Diversity (AP/AVP)**

More information about the position may be found on the Web at <http://www.nebraska.edu/>. The review of applications will begin Jan. 9, 2006, and will continue until the position is filled. For more information, contact Dara Troutman, senior associate to the president, at (402) 472-7143 or [dtroutman@nebraska.edu](mailto:dtroutman@nebraska.edu).

**The Sheps Center located in Chapel Hill, North Carolina is seeking a temporary Project Coordinator** to support activities of two research studies: Project GRACE (Growing, Reaching, Advocating for Change and Empowerment), and HIV Epidemiology Among African American Women in North Carolina.

For more information, please contact: [connie\\_blumenthal@unc.edu](mailto:connie_blumenthal@unc.edu)

## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **HARVARD'S TUITION ANNOUNCEMENT-**

Harvard University announced that from now on undergraduate students from low-income families will pay no tuition. In making the announcement, Harvard's president Lawrence H. Summers said, "When only 10 percent of the students in Elite higher education come from families in lower half of the income distribution, we are not doing enough. We are not doing enough in bringing elite higher education to the lower half of the income distribution." If you know any one/family earning less than \$40,000/year with an honor student graduating from high school soon or near ready for college, please pass this along. The prestigious university announced that from now on undergraduate students from low-income families can go to Harvard for free...no tuition and no student loans! To find out more visit Harvard's financial aid website at:

<http://adm-is.fas.harvard.edu/FAO/index.htm> or call the financial aid office at (617) 495-1581

**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)** has partnered with the United Negro College Fund Special Programs Corporation (UNCFSP) to develop and manage the Harriett G. Jenkins Pre-doctoral Fellowship Program (JFPF), which supports the training of the "next generation of explorers". The JFPF works to eliminate the shortage of skilled workers in STEM-related disciplines. Moreover, the JFPF facilitates the development of a more inclusive, multi-cultural and sustainable workforce by providing access and opportunity to those underrepresented and underutilized persons of society who want to earn advanced degrees. The JFPF provides women, disabled persons and/or minorities in STEM disciplines with financial support and hands-on research experience. Awards provide three years of funding for graduate students at accredited U.S. institutions. For more information, The application deadline is **Feb. 1, 2006**. Please share this information with your students, faculty and colleagues, and do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions. The JFPF Administrative Team: [hgfellows@uncfsp.org](mailto:hgfellows@uncfsp.org)

### **KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION'S Barbara Jordan Health Policy Scholars Program**

brings talented African American, Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Asian/Pacific Islander college seniors and recent graduates to Washington, D.C., during which time the Scholars are placed in Congressional offices in order to learn first-hand how health policy is developed and implemented. Through the nine-week program (May 23- July 28, 2006), Scholars will learn about federal legislative procedure and health policy issues, while further developing their critical thinking and leadership skills. In addition to gaining experience in a Congressional office, Scholars participate in seminars and site visits to enhance their knowledge of health care issues. Upon completion of the session, Scholars write and present a health policy research memo. For more information, contact: Jomo Kassaye, (202) 238-2385 or [bjscholars@howard.edu](mailto:bjscholars@howard.edu) **Applications are Due January 9, 2006, for Summer 2006.**

## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS - Continued

### **2006 Undergraduate Student Biomedical Research Symposium to be held during the 29th Annual NAMME Southern Region Spring Conference**

Medical College of Georgia - Augusta, Georgia

March 25, 2006 - 8:00 am—4:00 pm

#### **Interested In Presenting?**

Abstract Submission—October 24—December 9, 2005

Abstract Deadline—December 9, 2005

For additional information, please contact:

Linda James or [ljames@mail.mcg.edu](mailto:ljames@mail.mcg.edu) (706) 721-2522

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## HEALTH CAREERS AND PUBLIC HEALTH RESOURCES

### **Pocket Guide to Minority Health Resources**

The Pocket Guide to Minority Health Resources is an easy-to-use guide published by the Office of Minority Health. This pocket guide lists phone numbers and addresses to OMH regional coordinators, Public Health Service minority liaisons, Federal information centers and clearinghouses, and national organizations, categorized by target population. There is also a section on minority colleges. Print copies are available from the Resource Center. For further information, or to obtain a copy of the Pocket Guide, contact the Resource Center at 1-800-444-6472 or go on-line at:

<http://www.omhrc.gov/omhrc/publications/publications3.htm>

**Outbreak at Watersedge - A Public Health Discovery Game:** Health Careers Educators may find this site useful. This interactive Web-based game provides a fun and challenging way to introduce students to the field of public health. Produced by the Midwest Center for Life-Long-Learning in Public Health at the University of Minnesota.

<http://www.mclph.umn.edu/watersedge/>

### **Public Health Jeopardy**

NIH's Lifeworks <http://science.education.nih.gov/LifeWorks.nsf/feature/index.htm>

This allows students to explore health and medical science careers. The Career Finder is especially neat. It gives students a career profile based on series of questions that they answer. The site includes interviews with real health professionals and also a step by step list of things to do to prepare for college for each grade level.

<http://www.pbhealth.iupui.edu/Games/>

### **Medical Mysteries**

This is a problem-based adventure game that gives the student the role of scientist, historian, and detective. There are three missions the student can be involved in, each with its own objective. It has teaching materials including instructions for "mini-labs."

<http://medmyst.rice.edu/>

### **Texas H.O.T. Jobs**

Under "Student -directed Activities," students can perform various health occupation related skills (ex. Graphing audiographs, taking health histories, identifying radiographs used in dentistry, etc). Students are given complete instructions and can be done in class or individual settings.

<http://www.texashotjobs.org>

### **North Carolina Health Careers**

An overview of over 80 health professions including salary information, work environment, educational preparation and web links/contact information for over 200 national health-related organizations.

<http://www.nchealthcareers.com>

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