

# The Greater San Antonio Healthcare Summit Inspires Medical Professionals

The Texas Diversity Council held its Greater San Antonio Healthcare Summit on Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, at the University of Texas Health and Science Center at San Antonio. The event was held to promote dialogue, awareness, while also supporting diversity development strategies within the healthcare communities. Professionals from healthcare, corporate, and non-profit organizations attended this year's healthcare summit to explore the theme, "Diversity, Inclusion, and Cultural Competence in Healthcare".

Before the summit began, the attendees had breakfast and networked amongst themselves. Following the networking session, Dr. Harry Gibbs, Chief Diversity Officer of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, gave his presentation titled, "How to Speak Multicultural." The attendees were fully engaged as Dr. Gibbs gave insight on organizational advancement and elements of cross-cultural communications.

Following Dr. Gibbs' presentation, the attendees gained a greater understanding of building a diverse and inclusive organization from an array of panelists comprised of medical professionals from the San Antonio area. The panelists focused on raising awareness about the diverse and inclusive medical workforce. The topics included for discussion were "Inclusion and Cultural Competence at the Heart of Healthcare Excellence" and "Perceptions of Diversity in Healthcare Education." In addition to the panel of medical professionals, a second panel of graduate and undergraduate students from different medical disciplines, gathered to discuss diversity in their studies and how they intend to promote inclusion in their careers.

"We wanted to create an environment where healthcare professionals could address issues pertaining to diversity in the healthcare industry that have an impact on individuals, organizations, and the community," said



*Dr. Harry Gibbs at the Greater San Antonio Healthcare Summit*

Dennis Kennedy, Founder & CEO of the National Diversity Council.

The summit ended with closing remarks from Laura Alvarado, Communication and Program Manager of the Texas Diversity Council. The Texas Diversity Healthcare Council would like to thank all of the sponsors, speakers, and attendees for helping make the Gulf Coast Healthcare Summit a success.