

The Carolinas Chapter of the National Diversity Council (NDC Carolinas) recently celebrated the Inaugural Greenville Healthcare Diversity Summit on October 7, 2014. The National Diversity Council, in partnership with NDC Carolinas, the Healthcare Diversity Council, and BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina, created an outstanding event in response to the ever present lack of diversity and inclusion between patients and their providers. Audience members were able to hear from some of the top healthcare leaders in the Carolinas as they addressed *Cultural Competence* and the *Impact of Healthcare Disparities*.

“The Greenville Healthcare Diversity Summit was an in-depth panel discussion broken into two parts: 1) cultural competence and 2) healthcare disparities. These participants are true experts in their fields and come from diverse backgrounds and organizations. The topics were chosen to provide all attendees with valuable insights that will benefit their personal and professional growth. The Summit was created because there is a strong need for cross-cultural dialogue and diversity programs in the healthcare industry,” says President of the National Diversity Council, Dennis Kennedy.

The Summit began with a special greeting from the Honorable Congressman G. K. Butterfield, Jr., First Congressional District of North Carolina. Al Sullivan, MSOD, SPHR, President and Owner of Inspirus Consulting Inc., was the Moderator of the Summit, providing natural flow of dialogue between our esteemed panelists’ speaking periods. Attendees gained a wealth of insight from healthcare leaders including:

- Dr. Jan King Robinson, Vice President of Operations, Sentara Albemarle Medical Center
- Dr. James Taylor, Vice President & Chief Diversity Officer of Carolinas HealthCare System
- Dr. Virginia D. Hardy, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs East Carolina University
- Dr. Joan D. Wynn, PhD, RN CPHQ, Chief Quality & Patient Safety Officer, Vidant Health
- Dr. John Smith, MD, Medical Director, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina

Audience members asked thought provoking questions and received astute answers to their pressing questions. Through open conversations attendees, speakers, and staff had an insightful morning commenced and continued until noon at the Greenville Convention Center. It is the

hope of NDC Carolinas and the National Diversity Council to have the Healthcare Diversity Summit continue, expand and evolve each year with greater insight to be shared for the common objective of creating a more diverse and inclusive healthcare system in America.

We would like to thank our sponsors as well, because, without them, this event would not have been possible. Thank you to BlueCross BlueShield for their generous support as Title Sponsor and championing the Community Health Fair portion of the event. We would also like to thank East Carolina University, Carolinas HealthCare System, Pitt Community College, Vidant Health, Aerotek, Snyder's-Lance, and the Healthcare Diversity Council.



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Healthcare Diversity Council
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