



Touro Pharmacy Update

**Educating Caring Professionals to Serve, to Lead, to Teach
December 2006**

Introducing High School Students to Pharmacy

On December 7, 2006 Touro College of Pharmacy and the High School for Health Careers and Sciences in Washington Heights held an event to introduce juniors and seniors to career opportunities in pharmacy and other health professions. The high school is one of four smaller programs replacing George Washington High School. It provides students with an opportunity to pursue an interest in science and take courses not usually found in high school curricula. Ninety three percent of the students in the high school are Hispanic, an underserved population in New York City. The event is part of Touro's goal of expanding the profession's "pipeline." Along with the College of Pharmacy the Pharmacists Society of the State of New York, the New York City Chapter of the New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists, and Rite Aid had exhibits. The Touro College School of Health Sciences and the New York-Presbyterian Hospital nursing program also participated. Principal Harris Marmon and Assistant Principal Altagracia Acosta were full partners in the development of the program. Over 200 students participated. Several pictures from the Health Career Fair are included below.

The Career Fair was not only an opportunity to inform students about a career as a health professional but also to learn from the students their impressions about their career opportunities. A sizable number of students that I spoke to were unfamiliar with pharmacy and what a pharmacist does. These students clearly had not had much contact with a pharmacist and had very little to no knowledge about the profession. These students have a specific interest in health profession careers which make their comments important to consider. It does suggest that in pharmacy there are many challenges ahead if the Institute of Medicine's call for a diverse health care workforce is to be realized. All pharmacy stakeholders have a vested interest in accomplishing the IOM's recommendations. Our planning calls for Touro College of Pharmacy to have active programs to develop and cultivate an interest in the pharmacy profession from K-12 and through college.

On the agenda for the upcoming year is development of new programs with the High School for Health Careers and Sciences to go beyond a once a year career fair and provide continuity of the message. Discussions have touched upon development of a course specifically for students with the content focused on pharmacology, medication use and public health. As programs develop they will be expanded to other schools in the community.



With very best wishes for the Holiday Season and a productive and healthy New Year,

Stuart Feldman
Dean

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