

For Immediate Release

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Press Release

Hope Gala Benefit May 7th Inspiring Future Minority Doctors

Asheville Buncombe Institute of Parity Achievement announces a night of dinner and dancing benefiting the Minority Medical Mentoring Program. The Hope Gala will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2009 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm at **Pack Place Education, Arts & Science Center** located at 2 South Pack Square in Asheville North Carolina. Westsound will be providing the music. The Honorable Terry Bellamy will be in attendance.

The Minority Medical Mentoring Program allows high school seniors to see through the lens of our medical providers as student interns. Out of 600 physicians actively practicing medicine in Buncombe County one percent is African-American and one percent is Latino. These statistics reflect a grave need to increase the representation of minorities in medicine to promote culturally congruent care. We invite you to join us in the effort of fostering the sustainability of this program and the ability to provide scholarships to the students through this fundraiser.

Tickets are \$65.00 in advance and \$75.00 after May 1, 2009. Tickets can be obtained at the ABIPA office in its new location at 39 S. Market St. -Suite A Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm or online at: www.abipa.org

This program is a collaborative effort with Mission Hospitals, the Mountain Area Health Education Center, the Buncombe County Medical Society, Anderson Ophthalmology, Asheville-Buncombe Institute for Parity Achievement (ABIPA), and the public high schools in Buncombe County. These organizations provide faculty, facilities, educational opportunities, some materials, guidance and feedback on the program itself, students, and medical professionals who lead, teach, mentor, and evaluate the students and the program.

The mission of ABIPA is to promote economic, social, and health parity achievement for African Americans and other people of color in Buncombe County through advocacy, education, research, and community partnerships. ABIPA was established in 2004 as a 501(c)3. ABIPA's primary concern is to address health inequities and their underlying causes, such as educational and economic disparities. The work of ABIPA has been generously supported by the Community Foundation of WNC, Janirve Foundation, Mission Foundation, Buncombe County Medical Society Foundation and many faithful volunteers. For more information or to purchase tickets please call ABIPA at 828-251-8364.

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