



## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **First Annual Health Professions Summit**

**Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center (AHEC)** of Highland, New York, conducted its first Health Professions Summit on May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Library. The title for this Summit was *Improving Healthcare to LGBT Individuals and Families: Awareness to Action* and covered topics, such as: Enhancing Self-Awareness of Healthcare Practice Attitudes Toward the LGBT Community; Cultivating an Understanding of How the LGBT Community Views, Seeks Out, and Utilizes Healthcare; Cultural Competency in Transgender Healthcare; and Social and Legal Barriers to Healthcare Access for LGBT People.

Since many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals are at an increased risk for health-related threats and face treatment barriers when seeking healthcare, their unique healthcare issues and needs in public health were honestly and frankly addressed during this Summit.

“LGBT people are members of every community and socioeconomic group. Therefore, it is imperative that healthcare providers of all occupations as well as support staff understand their issues and needs as they would all patients in their practice or under their care” stated Kathryn Reed, Executive Director of Catskill Hudson AHEC.

Attendees included a wide spectrum of health professionals and support staff who work toward providing exceptional healthcare by incorporating best practices in the care to all of their patients and their families. Comments included, “Very powerful program ... Thank you!” and “Very informative and well-run - wonderful program.”

Catskill Hudson AHEC is a non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality, geographic distribution and retention of healthcare professionals and stimulating interest in health professions careers through innovative programs across its 11-county service area.

For additional information on current and future programs, please visit [www.CHAHEC.org/programs](http://www.CHAHEC.org/programs) or call (845) 883-7260.

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