



NEWS RELEASE

Annual Health Professions Seminars Highlights Improving Healthcare for LGBT Individuals

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center (AHEC) of Highland, NY, presented the *Health Professions Seminars – Improving Healthcare for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Individuals* at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, in Middletown, NY on April 3, 2016. The program provided an educational forum for a wide spectrum of health professionals and support staff who care for LGBT patients to increase their knowledge of important healthcare issues that this population continues to encounter, as well as to encourage the adoption of LGBT culturally competent practices and work toward providing exceptional healthcare to all of their patients.

Discussion topics included: *LGBT Healthcare: A Historical Overview and current Challenges*, by Howard Grossman, MD; *Cultural Competency in Transgender Healthcare*, by Lori Ciafardoni, MSN/ED, RN, and *Enhancing Self-Awareness of Healthcare Practice Attitudes Toward the LGBT Community*, by Rob Conlon, MS.

As a result, approximately 95% of attendees reported that they will work toward integrating lessons learned into their practice. Attendees and supporters agreed, “Excellent program on severely needed content! Consider this as an annual or semi-annual program,” “Excellent presenters with diverse backgrounds and information. It was very eye-opening,” “With these types of trainings, persistence, and optimism, I believe we will prevail in getting the word out!”

Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine provided their state-of-the-art venue for this program and Touro student volunteers generously donated their time to assist with programmatic details. Health Professions Seminar sponsors also included Westchester Medical Center Health Network, Adelphi University, and Arms Acres, with special thanks to our community partner, The Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network of the Hudson Valley (GLSEN).

“As our medical school is committed to helping the medically underserved, the Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine-Middletown campus is happy to serve as the site for this important meeting to improve health care provided for members of the LGBT community,” Dean Kenneth J. Steier, DO, MBA, MPH.

Essential resource material from this program can be found on Catskill Hudson AHEC’s website at <http://www.chahec.org/content/lgbt-resources>.

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 or call (845) 883-7260.

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