



# DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY

*Twenty Five Years of Service to America's Diverse Communities*

**PRESS ADVISORY**

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## 2015 HEALTH CARE SYMPOSIUM:

LAST GENERATION'S DREAMS ARE XXI CENTURY REALITY

May 14, 2015 – Washington, D.C. Dialogue on Diversity rolls out its fifteenth annual HEALTH CARE SYMPOSIUM with a day-long series of panels May 20<sup>th</sup> at the American Federation of Teachers in Washington. The 2015 edition of this traditionally engaging program features awards conferred on three figures of note in the Washington and national communities – **Rep. Judy Chu** of California's 27<sup>th</sup> District, **Ruby Jade Corado**, founder of Casa Ruby, and **Dr. John Davies-Cole**, former Chief Epidemiologist for the District of Columbia.

- **Rep. Judy Chu**, honored with the HEALTH LEADERSHIP AWARD, is recognized for her effectively asserted stance on health care issues. She has laid out a five-point agenda for health care, headed by Prevention. She cites figures showing savings on the national health bill equaling six times the expense of the added preventive measures required to achieve these savings. Also on the list: ACA provisions requiring specific justifications for premium hikes by insurers, the removal of the pre-existing-condition bars that had foreclosed coverage for many afflicted children; and changes of Medicare rules to sustain adequate compensation to physicians, ensuring continued service to Medicare patients.
- **Ruby Jade Corado**, founder of CasaRuby, receives the COMMUNITY HEALTH LEADERSHIP AWARD. Casa Ruby is a shelter, community center, and urban club rolled into one for the local LGBT groups seeking an accepting and congenial refuge from the sometimes disapproving, even hostile social milieu. Ruby herself presides, inspiring the whirlwind of activity centering in the Casa – a real and significant contribution to the psychic wellbeing of a smart but sometimes fearful clientele. Ms. Corado, coming from El Salvador, emigrated in 1988, settling in Washington.
- Finally, the HEALTH EQUITY LEADERSHIP AWARD is conferred on **Dr. John Davies-Cole**, for long the State Epidemiologist for the city of Washington, whose origins date to Sierra Leone in West Africa, a place to which he owes a residual affection. Dr. Davies-Cole is co-author of numerous articles on public health, the tell-tale symptoms of disease, its contagion, and more. Among these are articles on the statistical techniques of Syndromic Surveillance, a method evolved by leading figures in the field for early detection of epidemics sown by terrorist attacks or as naturally occurring outbreaks of contagion, through analysis of reports tallying specific symptoms observed long before definitive diagnoses may be made. Dr. Davies-Cole holds the degrees of Ph.D. and MPH.
- The 2015 Symposium undertakes to project a panoramic view of this decade's challenges in health care, with seminars successively on disparities and cultural competency; nutrition and prevention; the state of the ACA, a tale of successes and perils; the nature, the costs, and the quandaries of clinical trials in the pharmaceutical industry; Information Technology in the health care/medical worlds, and the companion issues of patient privacy; and finally a roundtable on mental health, diabetes, and substance abuse.

HEALTH CARE SYMPOSIUM, 9:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. LUNCH PROVIDED. RECEPTION 5:00 – 7:00 P.M.  
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS, 555 NEW JERSEY AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C

SCREENING TESTS FOR HYPERTENSION AND OTHER CONDITIONS WILL BE OFFERED  
COURTESY OF THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. 11:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

THE SYMPOSIUM AND RECEPTION ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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