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PRESS RELEASE

The Ohio Commission on Minority Health presents its annual state Minority Health Month Expo. Columbus, Ohio – The [Ohio Commission on Minority Health](http://www.mih.ohio.gov) will host its annual Minority Health Month Expo this March 29th in anticipation for Minority Health Month 2018, this April. This year [Dr. Quinn Capers, IV, M.D., FACC](#) of the Ohio State University College of Medicine will serve as Keynote Speaker for the Expo opening ceremony. The Expo will be held in the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Performing Arts, 77 South High Street on the 3rd and 5th Floors, March 29, 2018 from 9am – 2pm. The event and all Minority Health Month events across the state are free and open to the public. Matt Barnes, sports anchor and reporter for NBC4 will serve as Media Host.

“Ohio joins the nation in the celebration of April as Minority Health Month,” stated Commission Executive Director, Angela Dawson. “The 2018 national theme for Minority Health Month is “Partnering for Health Equity.” This theme reflects The Ohio Commission on Minority Health’s continuous and collective efforts to increase momentum toward achieving a state free of disparities in health and health care. Removing health disparities and achieving health equity is at the crux of the Commission’s work.

To continue this work, the Commission has initiated its [Medical Expert Panel](#) (MEP) on Health Equity. The MEPs efforts are designed to influence state policy by providing data driven solutions and action-oriented recommendations to improve health equity and health outcomes for racial and ethnic populations in Ohio. The culmination of this work is a white paper that provides unique insights of practitioners and policy makers who are on the front lines of addressing healthy equity in Ohio.

[Healthy People 2020](#) defines health equity as the, “...attainment of the highest level of health for all people. Achieving health equity requires valuing everyone equally with focused and ongoing societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities, historical and contemporary injustices, and the elimination of health and healthcare disparities.” “Equitable, quality health care is a right, not a privilege,” said Director Angela Dawson. “The only means by which we will achieve health equity for all, including racial and ethnic minorities, is through ample education, accountability and effective policy.”

This year, the Commission is honored to have Pewter Level Sponsors for the Expo to include Buckeye Health Plan, CareSource, Molina, Ohio Health, Ohio State University – Wexner Medical Center, Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, PrimaryOne Health and ProMedica. Over 50 vendors will be on site for free health screenings and information, health incentives, healthy food samples, and live fitness demonstrations including Zumba, Hip Hop Fitness, Line Dancing, and Tai Chi.

During April, there will be over 90 events throughout Ohio focused on the promotion of healthy lifestyles, screening activities, and the provision of crucial information to empower individuals to practice health promotion and prevention. You can find activities near you on the Commission’s website, www.mih.ohio.gov.

The first Minority Health Month was held in April 1989 as a statewide 30-day wellness campaign. In 2000, Minority Health Month became a national celebration. Minority Health Month was designed to:

- Promote healthy lifestyles;
- Provide crucial information to allow individuals to practice disease prevention;
- Showcase the resources for providers of grassroots health care and disseminate information;
- Highlight the resolution of the disparate health conditions between Ohio’s minority and non-minority populations; and
- Gain additional support for the on-going efforts to improve minority health year round.

In 1987, the Ohio Commission on Minority Health became the first freestanding state agency in the nation to address the disparity that exists between the health status of minority and non-minority populations. Today, there are Offices of Minority Health in over 40 states. The Commission’s mission is to eliminate disparities in minority health through innovative strategies and financial opportunities, public health promotion, legislative action, public policy and systems change. For more information on the Ohio Commission on Minority Health, please visit their website at www.mih.ohio.gov. If you have any other questions please contact the Commission at (614) 466-4000.

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