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| **For Immediate Release**   **April 30, 2024** | **Contact: Mercedes Diez** Director, Communications & College Relations Mercedes.Diez@lehman.cuny.edu 917-213-4836 |

**BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT VANESSA GIBSON AND CHIEF EQUITY OFFICER AND COMMISSIONER SIDEYA SHERMAN TO KEYNOTE HEALTH EQUITY SUMMIT 2024**

*Health Experts and Students Explore Effects of Health Disparities on Local Communities*

**WHO:** LehmanSchool of Health Sciences, Human Services & Nursing and Black Health

**WHAT:** Health Equity Summit 2024

**WHERE:** Lehman College, Lovinger Theatre

250 Bedford Park Blvd West  
**WHEN:** Friday, May 3, program begins at 10 a.m.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**: Bronx Borough President, Vanessa Gibson; Chief Equity Officer and Commissioner, Sideya Sherman

[RSVP Here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/health-equity-summit-2024-tickets-876261370347) (Free and open to the public)

**The Bronx, NY—** Focusing on critical health issues that impact the community, the Lehman CollegeSchool of Health Sciences, Human Services & Nursing in collaboration with Black Health is pleased to announce the upcoming Health Equity Summit 2024 taking place at Lehman College on May 3. Keynote remarks will be delivered by Bronx Borough President, Vanessa Gibson and New York City Chief Equity Officer and Commissioner Sideya Sherman.

“The Health Equity Summit offers our communities the opportunity to come together in an effort to address health disparities,” said Elgloria Harrison, Dean of the School of Health Sciences, Human Services, and Nursing at Lehman College. “By empowering our campus community with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to make informed health decisions, we are fostering collective change and dismantling barriers to health equity.”

This year’s summit will spotlight the intersection between housing and health, focusing on the impact quality of life, safety, and economic opportunity has on health. Bringing together students, health professionals, policymakers, and community leaders, the summit will address the inequalities in healthcare access while serving as a stage for discussion and action planning aimed at advancing health education and policy awareness.

“This Health Summit enables us to center ongoing work around the social, structural, economic, and political barriers to health access and equity in an intergenerational, multisectoral space. In these types of environments, we can work collectively to come up with creative solutions to the complex challenges in our communities, and our youth - our future leaders - have an opportunity to contribute to these solutions in real time,” said C. Virginia Fields, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Black Health.

The core of the event will be presentations by Lehman College students who will present research on topics including HIV, diabetes, and mental health.

A champion of health equity, Vanessa Gibson has led many initiatives to address disparities in healthcare access in her role as Borough President. In addition, Gibson has advocated for policies that prioritize the health needs of Bronx residents.

As Chief Equity Officer and Commissioner, Sideya Sherman oversees the policies and initiatives aimed at advancing equity. Through collaborations and partnerships with diverse stakeholders, Sherman’s office creates avenues that provide economic support for mobility, health, housing, and social well-being across all boroughs.

"Access to quality healthcare and healthy living environments is not a privilege, but a fundamental component of the wellbeing of all New Yorkers," said NYC Chief Equity Officer and NYC Mayor's Office of Equity & Racial Justice Commissioner Sideya Sherman. "The Health Equity Summit provides a platform to address longstanding health inequities as we pursue racial equity across all facets of life. Alone, these barriers can be hard to break down, but together, we can forge a brighter future for all. We commend Lehman College and Black Health for facilitating this crucial conversation and providing a powerful platform for community connection."

Registration for the Health Equity Summit is now open. Attendees can secure their spot by visiting the [event page](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/health-equity-summit-2024-tickets-876261370347).

**About Lehman College**    
A perennial national leader in promoting social mobility, Lehman College of The City University of New York serves as an intellectual, economic, and cultural center for the Bronx, New York City, and beyond. The college - which sits on a tree-lined 37-acre campus – supports more than 13,000 undergraduate and graduate students, another 14,000 students in continuing and professional programs, and over 90,000 alumni. As a federally designated Hispanic-Serving Institution in the Bronx, Lehman College educates a diverse population of students. The college offers bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees as well as certificate programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and professions.

**About Black Health**

Through robust outreach efforts and Education, Black Health provides information to its targeted population on disease prevention, early testing, and disease management; affirm that health is the priority of our community and that community members play the most significant role in managing their health. Advocacy ensures that there are always people in our community prioritizing the issues that impact us the most. We raise the banner and speak loudly, proudly, and consistently, highlighting issues that impact Black communities and drawing attention to the urgency of solving access to care and the elimination of disease. Committed to Policy changes and legislative decisions that increase funding for preventative testing, address existing health care crises, and maintain affordable treatment and care for improved quality of life.