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| **For Immediate Release**   **April 30, 2025** | **Contact: Mercedes Diez** Director, Communications & College Relations Mercedes.Diez@lehman.cuny.edu 917-213-4836 |

**2025 HEALTH EQUITY SUMMIT TO FEATURE ASSEMBLYMEMBER KARINA REYES AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER DR. MICHELLE MORSE**

*Lehman College Hosts Third-Annual Student-Led Conference Addressing Environmental Justice*

**WHO:** LehmanCollege**,** Hostos Community College, and Black Health

**WHAT:** Health Equity Summit 2025

**WHERE:** Lehman College, Lovinger Theatre

250 Bedford Park Blvd West  
**WHEN:** Friday, May 9, program begins at 9 a.m.

**SPEAKERS**: Assemblymember Karina Reyes; Dr. Michelle Morse (Keynote Speaker), Interim Health Commissioner and Chief Medical Officer, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and Adrian Guzman, J.D., Director, Policy and External Affairs, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

[RSVP Here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/health-equity-summit-2025-tickets-1257701863129?utm_experiment=test_share_listing&aff=ebdsshios) (*Free and open to the public*)

**The Bronx, NY—** Assemblymember Karina Reyes and Dr. Michelle Morse, Interim Health Commissioner and Chief Medical Officer at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, are the featured speakers at the third annual Health Summit on Friday, May 9, 2025 at Lehman College’s Lovinger Theatre. Dr. Morse will deliver the keynote address. Hosted by Black Health in partnership with the Lehman College School of Health Sciences, Human Services and Nursing, and Hostos Community College, this year’s theme “Environmental Justice to Achieve Health Equity” highlights how environmental conditions contribute to chronic health issues in underserved communities. The event will also feature special guest speaker Adrian Guzman, J.D., Director of Policy and External Affairs at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

“The Health Equity Summit offers our students the platform to address some of the most complex health disparities impacting our communities today,” said Elgloria Harrison, Dean of the School of Health Sciences, Human Services, and Nursing. “By offering students the space to have critical conversations, share lived experiences, and present research-driven solutions, we are cultivating a generation of health leaders equipped to advance equity and transform the future of healthcare.”

Assemblymember Karina Reyes represents New York’s 87th District and is a registered nurse in the Oncology Department at Montefiore Einstein Hospital. A proud Afro-Latina born in the Dominican Republic and raised in Puerto Rico and Queens, she brings her lived experience and deep commitment to health equity, labor rights, and community empowerment to every role she holds. Reyes has dedicated her life to advocating for underserved communities while balancing the responsibilities of public service, nursing, and motherhood.

Dr. Michelle Morse is the Interim Commissioner of Health and the inaugural Chief Medical Officer at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, where she leads initiatives to bridge public health and healthcare in pursuit of equity across New York City. A board-certified internal medicine physician, she continues to care for patients at Kings County Hospital while advancing work in social medicine, anti-racism, and global health justice. Dr. Morse is also the Co-Founder of EqualHealth and was named a TIME100 Next honoree in 2024 for her leadership in health equity.

“Every New Yorker deserves to achieve their full health potential, and the New York City Health Department is committed to marching towards that visionary goal,” said Dr. Michelle Morse, New York City’s Acting Health Commissioner. “New York City, including the Bronx, has a long history of disinvestment from communities of color. To repair this historic inequity, we must reinvest public health resources according to need.”

The core of the event will feature presentations by Lehman College students who will present their research on key public health issues such as asthma, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. Community stakeholders from both the private and public sectors are invited to join and contribute to the ongoing dialogue around public health and equity.

"Now in its third year, the Health Equity Summit continues to grow, reaching not only students in the health professions but also those still deciding on a career path. Black Health is honored to collaborate with students and other stakeholders, particularly during a time when the need for a skilled and diverse health workforce is ever-present," said Shirley Torho, President & CEO of Black Health. "Through education, mentorship, and leadership development, the Health Equity Summit helps build a pipeline of future healthcare leaders—an important step toward reducing health disparities and improving outcomes in underserved communities.”

Registration for the Health Equity Summit is now open. Attendees can secure their spot by visiting the [event page](https://www.lehman.edu/events/2025/Health-Equity-Summit.php).

**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; affirming 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. It is committed to effecting 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.