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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**State of Black Health in Kentucky 2005 Workshop held at Simmons, The Effects of Tobacco on Kentucky's Blacks**

(Oct. 10, 2005) LOUISVILLE, KY – Simmons College of Kentucky will host a community workshop, *State of Black Health in Kentucky 2005: The Effects of Tobacco on Kentucky's Blacks*, Saturday, October 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This workshop will be co-hosted by Kentucky Action in conjunction with the American Cancer Society, NorthWest Area Health Education Center (AHEC), Kentucky African Americans Against Cancer (KAAAC), the Louisville Metro Health Department, and Park DuValle Community Health Center.

The guest speakers for this workshop include Kwesi Ronal Harris, membership chairperson of the National African American Tobacco Prevention Network (NAATPN) of Chicago, Illinois, Mrs. Brenda Fitzpatrick, Director of the NorthWest AHEC, Faye Jones, MD, pediatric physician at the University of Louisville, Dr. Ricky L. Jones, chair of the Pan-African Studies department at the University of Louisville, Rev. Clay Calloway, president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Coalition, and public health professionals Brenda Bell-Caffee, Sandra Mucker, and Terra Leavell of the American Cancer Society.

Black Americans continue to suffer from chronic diseases at disproportionate levels, compared to white Americans. It is the time for effective health outreach and education to empower Kentucky's Black population to make better lifestyle choices and practices to improve overall health. While African Americans face other barriers to health care, importance on greater physical activity, adding fruits and vegetables to diets, and eating fewer foods high in saturated fats are imperative in relieving existing challenges.

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**State of Black Health Community Forum**

8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.,  
Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005  
Simmons College of Kentucky  
1811 Dumesnil Street

Forum Participants:

**Kwesi Ronald Harris**  
Membership Chair,  
National African American  
Tobacco Prevention Network,  
(NAATPN) Chicago, IL

**Brenda Fitzpatrick**  
Center Director,  
NorthWest AHEC

**V. Faye Jones, MD**  
Associate Professor,  
Pediatrics, University of  
Louisville

**Ricky Jones, Ph.D.**  
Chair, Pan-African Studies  
Department, University of  
Louisville

**Rev. Clay Calloway**  
President,  
Interdenominational

Participants of this forum, which is free and open to the public, will address the troubling indicators of poor health and disease that disproportionately affect Louisville's African American populations.

For more information, contact Andrea Houston at 502-235-7296.

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