

Brooklyn Borough President Markowitz, Congresswoman Clarke and Council Member Mealy addressed CACCI's Financial Literacy Conference



Brooklyn, NY. The Caribbean American of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (CACCI) sponsored the third in a series of financial Literacy conference on Saturday, April 26, 2008, at Medgar Evers College, CUNY, Brooklyn, NY. Special guest speakers the Honorable Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, Brooklyn Borough President Honorable Marty Markowitz, and New York City Councilmember Honorable Darlene Mealy appeared before members of the community that included Young Adults, Attorneys, Developers, Real Estate Businesses, Contractors, Bankers, Non Profits, Faith Based Organizations and Senior Citizens who participated in CACCI's conference that was billed as a Financial Literacy Community Dialogue.

CACCI president/CEO Dr. Roy Hastick Sr. brought greetings and thanked the speakers and committee for their assistance in organizing this event. Congresswoman Yvette Clarke emphasized the importance of being informed at this time of national economic uncertainty, encouraged participants to prepare themselves to access business opportunities, and spoke about her efforts to help to end the mortgage crisis and stop predatory lending through sponsorship of a recent Congressional bill that pertains to foreclosed housing. Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz underscored the need to introduce budgeting in the New York City School's curriculum to prepare youth to make wise money management decisions. He also announced the opening of a new High School in Canarsie that will focus on marketing and advertising, and is encouraging minority young people to prepare themselves to take advantage of this lucrative profession. Dr Emanuel Gonsalves, Dean of the School of Business at Medgar Evers College encouraged participants to continue to dialogue with each other about financial literacy to be even better informed and to spread the word to others. Honorable Darlene Mealy reinforced the importance of continuing the financial literacy dialogue and shared personal insights and lessons learned.

Panelists spoke on Financial Literacy topics which included: ***Planning Ahead: Budgeting and Banking*** presented by Sabra Richardson, CACCI Financial Literacy Coordinator, and President of Simply Budgeting Inc. and Charles Lockley, Manager, Citigroup (Montague Street, Brooklyn branch); ***Credit Counseling, Traditional/Non Traditional Access to Capital*** was presented by Colette Burnett, Bank of America and Arva Rice, Exec Director of Project Enterprise; ***Information and Insights on Purchasing Home and/or Commercial Real Estate*** were provided by Kevin Holmes, Massey Knakal Realty Services and ***Insurance, Taxes and Asset Protection***

was addressed by Jeff Bacchus, NY Life Insurance and Cheryl Kinch, Esq. who stressed the importance of taking stock of one's personal and professional situation and taking steps to protect one's assets.

The event was sponsored by The Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc, and co-sponsored by The NYC Council Brooklyn Delegation and NYC Department of Small Business Services. Other ***CACCI Financial Literacy*** workshops provide information and "hands on assistance" at various community sites including educational and faith-based institutions, and the Flatbush Caton Market.