

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Community Calendar of Events
Start Date: September 16, 2008
End Date: October 10, 2007
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Dr. M. Joycelyn Elders to speak at Extension Family Conference in October



Dr. M. Joycelyn Elders, a dynamic and engaging presenter, is the keynote luncheon speaker at the Distinguished Public Service Awards that will be held at noon at the Von Braun Center in downtown Huntsville on Thursday, October 16.

When Dr. Elders was sworn in as the fifteenth surgeon general, she became the first African American and the second woman to hold that post. As surgeon general, Dr. Elders initiated programs to combat youth smoking and teen pregnancy and to increase childhood immunizations. As a private citizen, she continues to lobby tirelessly for the health needs of the young, the poor, and the powerless.

"Family Preparedness for Current and Emerging Epidemics" is the theme of the 2008 Annual Family Conference that will be held on two days, October 15 at Alabama A&M University from 1:00-5:00 p.m. and October 16 in the North Hall of the Von Braun Center in downtown Huntsville from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This year family care professionals will learn about effective strategies to help families ease financial insecurities, safeguard against infectious diseases, and adopt healthier lifestyles.

"It may be human nature to wait until a crisis hits home before jumping into action, but in the wake of home foreclosures, identity theft, higher obesity rates, and other epidemics, it's important for families to think ahead and to be prepared for life's challenges," said event chair Dr. Donnie Cook.

That's why Extension's Urban Affairs & New Nontraditional Programs unit has invited experts with effective research-based strategies to help families to not only ride the waves, but survive the tides of unforeseen change.

Guest speakers include: Dr. Pamela Foster, deputy director of the Institute for Rural Health Research at The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, AL; Dr. Sandra Glover, associate dean for health disparities & social justice, University of South Carolina, Orangeburg, SC; Dr. Vivian Aboko-Cole Hicks, Center For Adult Medicine & Hypertension, Huntsville, AL; Dr. Georgia Jones, Extension food specialist, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Debra S. Jones, Extension health specialist, Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA; Mary Fant, state specialist, Kentucky State University, Frankfort,

KY; Sandra Brazelton, Real Estate Broker, certified residential specialist & credit counselor, Quali-Tech Properties, Huntsville, AL; and Extension's own Dr. Roger Richardson, housing & urban community resource development specialist at Alabama A&M.

The Distinguished Public Service Awards Luncheon featuring Dr. Elders on Thursday, October 16, is fast becoming a tradition of the Annual Family Conference. It is a time set aside to honor individuals who have made significant impacts to strengthen family-centered communities across the state of Alabama.

The cost of this 2-day event is \$75.00. Discount rates are available for groups, students, and seniors over the age of 65. Tickets for the Distinguished Public Service Awards Luncheon are \$30.00 each or \$250 for a table seating eight. We encourage all community organizations to purchase a table for staff, students, or elderly adults who may want to attend this event.

Professional development units, continuing education units, and contact hours will be available for social workers, nurses, dietitians, and family and consumer scientists.

For general conference information, please visit www.acesfamilyconference.org or contact Wendi Williams at (256) 372-4953. To register, please contact Erica James at 256.372.4951. For luncheon logistics, please contact Ann Warren at 256-372-4103.