



NEWS RELEASE

SOUTH SUBURBAN HOUSING CENTER
18220 Harwood Avenue, Suite 1
Homewood, IL 60430

Contact: John Petruszak
Tel. (708) 957-4674, x22
E-mail: southsuburban@prodigy.net

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South Suburban Housing Center's 2017 Fair Housing Achievement Award Recipient-- Eugene Dumas and the Center for MultiCultural Communities

On Thursday, April 6th, South Suburban Housing Center, the regional fair housing enforcement and housing counseling organization serving the south suburbs since 1975, will commemorate the Center's 42nd Anniversary and National Fair Housing Month by presenting awards at its 2017 Fair Housing Achievement Awards Reception. This year's Fair Housing Achievement Award will be given to Eugene Dumas and the Center for MultiCultural Communities (CMC). Mr. Dumas has been the Executive Director of CMC since 2007. The organization was founded in 1997 and began offering "healing racism" workshops to help individuals better understand and work with cultural differences. Today, CMC provides a variety of open forums and workshops encouraging community members to understand and embrace their cultural differences and reach their potential by using the talents of all their members. CMC is located at Prairie State College and partners with PSC's Civic Engagement Center to promote the development of an inclusive and vibrant region.

SSHC honors Eugene Dumas individually for his lifelong devotion to education and community service. He worked for the Chicago Public School system as a teacher and administrator for 40 years before retiring in 2002 and becoming an educational consultant to the Chicago Board of Education, Trinity Christian College and the University of Memphis. His post retirement led him to taking on a larger role and then becoming the Executive Director of CMC. Eugene has recently been recognized by the State of Illinois, during its Black History Month Celebration in February 2017, with their "Educator Award" presented by Governor Bruce Rauner, for his leadership in providing diversity education that affirms the dignity and worth of all people.

Along with the awards program, the reception will feature a presentation by George Lipsitz, award winning author on racism in America and Professor of Black Studies and Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Musical entertainment will be provided by Chicago soul singer and poet, Jamilia Woods. Recognition will also be given at the reception to two families assisted by South Suburban Housing Center's Inclusive Communities Fund. This program provides mortgage distress assistance to families in south suburban communities hardest hit by foreclosure. Several area lending partners serve as sponsors of the event: BMO Harris Bank, First Midwest Bank, First Savings Bank of Hegewisch, State Farm Bank, The Private Bank, Associated Bank and Inland Home Mortgage. The reception will be held at the Flossmoor Country Club, on Thursday evening, April 6, 2017. All proceeds from the event will be devoted to homeownership preservation efforts of the Housing Center assisting south suburban families with mortgage default and foreclosure problems.

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