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Contact: Carla Hawkins  
AMAT Secretary  
Association for Multicultural Affairs in Transplantation (AMAT)  
Carla.hawkins@lifelinkfound.org  
www.amat1.org

**Association for Multicultural Affairs in Transplantation (AMAT) Announces the  
Launch of New Diversity Workgroup, Aftercare Resource Guide at its 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
Conference**

**Richmond, VA October 22, 2015** — The Association for Multicultural Affairs in Transplantation (AMAT) held its 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference at the beautiful MGM Grand Detroit Hotel in the downtown area of Detroit, Michigan. Themed, “Building Community: Bridging the Gap through Innovation and Creativity,” the conference was hosted by Gift of Life Michigan, the federally designated organ and tissue recovery program that provides all services necessary for organ donation to occur in the state. The annual gathering marked an exciting time, as the organization promised to engage, empower, enlighten, and equip the conference attendees with information and skills to enhance their professional and personal development in their collective effort to galvanize multicultural communities with the message of saving lives by registering as organ and tissue donors.

The conference began with an all-hands workshop, “Conversation Ready” which set the foundation for exploring multicultural nuances that factor into end of life decisions. A host of leading transplantation thought leaders participated in the conference, including: Clive O. Callender, M.D, founder of MOTTEP and renowned transplant surgeon; Dr. Rishindra Reddy, assistant professor of surgery at the University of Michigan; and Kyle Kinsey, central region donor development manager at Cytonet. Breakout sessions were impactful and enriching, and conference attendees were excited to learn that a new diversity committee was launched, the American Indian Workgroup, chaired by Dr. Misty Condiff of Bemidji State University. The workgroup will focus on developing culturally competent tools and strategies for engaging American Indian communities with the imperative of saving lives through organ and tissue donation.

“AMAT is headed in the right direction and soaring to great heights because of the human capital we possess and our dedication and passion to enhancing the mission of organ and tissue donation and saving lives,” said AMAT President Remonia Chapman. “It’s an exciting time to be part of AMAT.”

With three new board members and newly appointed committee chairpersons, AMAT plans to continue serving multicultural needs and affairs in transplantation. AMAT also launched a new downloadable resource guide for AMAT members and industry partners. This resource outlines key strategies for pre-planning, palliative care, spiritual care, and social work/patient advocacy best practices. Pre-conference workshop forum speakers included: Wallace Williams, Tony Flowers Jefferson, David Techner, and Rita Jordon. All serve as funeral home directors and/or presidents and consultants in the medical field. Each pledged

to work in concert with AMAT to ensure a continuum of information related to aftercare best practices.

Heartfelt thanks were given to the generous sponsors of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual AMAT Conference, including: Gift of Hope, Gift of Life Foundation, Gift of Life Michigan, Detroit MOTTEP Foundation, LifeLink Foundation, LiveOnNY, CORE and Mid-America Transplant Services.

More information on the 2015 conference, including a full agenda, can be found on the AMAT website, [www.amat1.org](http://www.amat1.org). AMAT's 2016 conference will be held in Jersey City, New Jersey and hosted by New Jersey Sharing Network. For more information on the 2015 AMAT conference or on the organization, please contact Carla Hawkins at 229-291-7457.

### **About the Association for Multicultural Affairs in Transplantation (AMAT)**

AMAT was established in 1992 to address the increasing need for organ and tissue donors in the multicultural communities while simultaneously offering support, shared expertise and professional development opportunities for its members as they save and heal lives. AMAT is a self-sustaining, self-governed organization operating solely on voluntary contributions from individuals, corporations, and other affiliated organizations. For more information, visit: [www.AMAT1.org](http://www.AMAT1.org).

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