

# BNGAP

Building the Next Generation  
of Academic Physicians

## OUR MISSION

TO HELP DIVERSE MEDICAL STUDENTS AND RESIDENTS EMBARK UPON AN  
ACADEMIC MEDICINE CAREER

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

As we reflect on another impactful season of programming, we are filled with gratitude and excitement for the momentum within our community. This edition of the BNGAP newsletter highlights moments of celebration, connection, and progress — from honoring Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, to recognizing the achievements of the Class of 2026, and celebrating the success of our BNGAP National Pre-Faculty Conference/15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference and the LGBT Health Workforce Conference.

Across each of these milestones, one theme remains constant: the power of community in shaping the future of academic medicine. Whether through community building, supporting scholarship or promoting resilience among our members, our collective efforts continue to build pathways for a more inclusive and equitable healthcare workforce.

We invite you to explore this issue as we celebrate the voices, achievements, and shared commitment that define BNGAP's mission and impact.

**ROSA LEE, MD**  
EXECUTIVE BOARD, BNGAP INC.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**BNGAP Chapter  
Orientation  
August 2026**



# **BNGAP NATIONAL PRE-FACULTY CONFERENCE/15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE AND LGBT HEALTH WORKFORCE CONFERENCE**

## **Thank you!**

This year's LGBT Health Workforce Conference and BNGAP 15-Year Anniversary celebration marked an extraordinary gathering of students, residents, fellows, faculty, healthcare leaders, and advocates united by a shared commitment to advancing equity, inclusion, and excellence in healthcare.

Over the course of the conference, attendees engaged in meaningful conversations surrounding mentorship, academic medicine, LGBTQ+ health, professional development, research, advocacy, and community building. The energy throughout the event reflected the strength and resilience of our growing network and reaffirmed the importance of creating spaces where future healthcare leaders feel seen, supported, and empowered to thrive authentically.

This year's conference was particularly meaningful as we celebrated 15 years of BNGAP's impact and growth. What began as a vision to support and inspire the next generation of academic physicians has evolved into a national movement that continues to transform lives and institutions across the country. Seeing so many alumni, trainees, mentors, and partners come together served as a powerful reminder of how far this community has come — and how much further we can go together.

We extend our deepest gratitude to every attendee, speaker, mentor, volunteer, sponsor, and community partner who contributed to the success of this year's conference. Your passion, leadership, and dedication continue to move this mission forward. Together, we are building a more inclusive and equitable future for medicine, one leader at a time.

**BNGAP 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, APRIL 30 – MAY 2, 2026**  
***We are excited and grateful to have Memorandum of Understanding  
with the following organizations (More to Come!)***



# BNGAP NATIONAL PRE-FACULTY CONFERENCE/15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

## Career fair highlights

Thank you for attending the 2026 BNGAP Career Fair! We had 164 registrants. Thank you to our collaborating organizations - AAMC, AMSNY, SACNAS, and Hunter College.

Career Fair Registrants:

College students - 83%

Post-Bacc students - 17%

Women - 79%

Men - 20%

Gender nonconforming - 1%

Straight - 68%

LGBTQ+ - 7%

American Indian/Alaska Native - 1%

Asian - 24%

Black/African-American - 37%

Latina/o/x/e, Hispanic, or of Spanish Origin+ - 21%

Middle Eastern - 12%

White - 14%

Below is contact information for participating career fair medical schools / organizations:

Dr. Paris Johnson - [johnson1080@marshall.edu](mailto:johnson1080@marshall.edu) - Marshall School of Medicine

Dr. Daniel Correa [daniel.correa@einsteinmed.edu](mailto:daniel.correa@einsteinmed.edu) - Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Dr. Mekbib Gemedo - [Mekbib.Gemedo@hmhn.org](mailto:Mekbib.Gemedo@hmhn.org) - Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine

Dr. Mill Etienne - [mill\\_etienne@nymc.edu](mailto:mill_etienne@nymc.edu) - New York Medical College

Dean Francisco Lucio - [flucio@arizona.edu](mailto:flucio@arizona.edu) - University of Arizona School of Medicine

Dr. Marietta Vazquez - [marietta.vazquez@yale.edu](mailto:marietta.vazquez@yale.edu) - Yale School of Medicine

Dr. Elena Rios [erios@nhhfx.org](mailto:erios@nhhfx.org) - National Hispanic Health Foundation

Dr. Valencia Walker - [vwalker1@geisinger.edu](mailto:vwalker1@geisinger.edu) - Geisinger School of Medicine

## BNGAP NATIONAL PRE-FACULTY CONFERENCE/15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

### Edward Callahan PhD Endowed Award

At BNGAPs 15th Anniversary, the Board voted to approve the Edward Callahan PhD Endowed Award in recognition of his national leadership in advancing LGBTQ+ inclusion in academic medicine. The Board established the endowment with a \$25,000 allocation and an additional \$3,000 was raised at the 15th Annual Awards Ceremony. The goal is \$50,000 by May 2027. 3% - 5% of the endowment will be distributed per year.



[Donate Here](#)

## BNGAP COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

### Nicholas Brutus, MD | Prostate Cancer

In a recent *Urologic Oncology Seminars and Original Investigations* article, lead author, and BNGAP Treasurer Nicholas Brutus, MD, shared the technological advancements in the detection and treatment of prostate cancer that will ultimately reduce mortality rates.

“We at Yale are very optimistic. Even within our own department, we have seen advancements in treating patients with metastatic disease, the increase in screening, improvement in morbidity associated with therapies, and the decrease in mortality over the last two decades. It is very remarkable how few incisions we make these days to surgically treat prostate cancer. We are optimistic that trends will continue to, if not decrease, at least stay the same as the incidence of prostate increases in our aging population.”

- Dr. Brutus

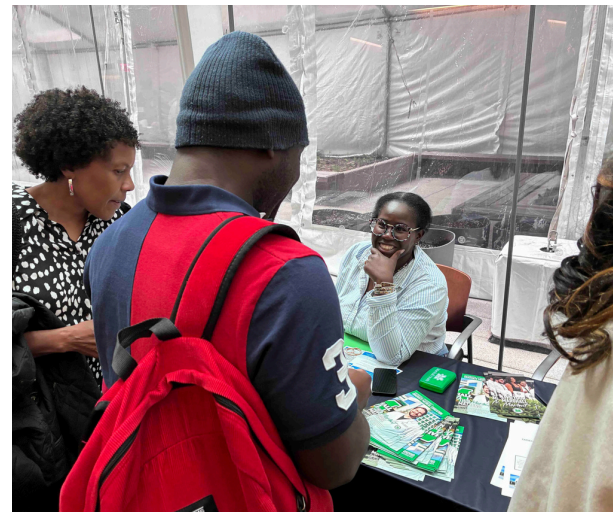
Yale School of Medicine spoke to Dr. Brutus about the research [▶](#)

<https://lnkd.in/eHjK6d3s>



# BNGAP NATIONAL PRE-FACULTY CONFERENCE/15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

## Conference highlights: College Fair



## BNGAP NATIONAL PRE-FACULTY CONFERENCE/15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Congratulations to our award winners!



### ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE BNGAP Chapter of the Year

to recognize a BNGAP chapter who has demonstrated the mission of the BNGAP including community service, scholarship, mentoring, outreach, and involvement on the local, regional, and national level.



### CHAIRS, GROUP ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION, AAMC Organizational/Institutional Leadership Award

David Acosta, MD, Cynthia Boyd, MD, Edward J. Callahan, PhD, Chiquita A. Collins, PhD, Sheryl L. Heron, MD, MPH, Leon McDougle, MD, MPH, Renee Navarro, MD, PharmD, Ana Núñez, MD, FACP, Joan Y. Reede, MD, Maria Soto-Greene, MD

recognizes a health-related organization/institution that has led activities to promote the development of a diverse pre-faculty workforce.



### VALERIE ROMERO-LEGGOTT MD Health Professional Leadership Award

[\(acceptance speech\)](#)

recognizes an individual that as a health-related professional has led activities to promote the development of a diverse pre-faculty workforce.

## BNGAP NATIONAL PRE-FACULTY CONFERENCE/15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to our award winners!



### CRISTHIAN GUTIERREZ HUERTA PHD Junior Leadership Award

recognizes an individual that as a health-related graduate school trainee has led activities to promote the development of a diverse pre-faculty workforce.



### VICTOR EKUTA MD Trainee Leadership Award

to recognize medical students, residents, and/or fellows that exhibit exceptional early educational, research, and/or service scholarship and have strengthened their foundation to serve as a future faculty member.



### CHRISTOPHER HERNANDEZ SALINAS Trainee Leadership Award

[\(acceptance speech\)](#)



### BEYLUL NEGASSI Trainee Leadership Award

[\(acceptance speech\)](#)

## BNGAP NATIONAL PRE-FACULTY CONFERENCE/15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to our award winners!

At the BNGAP 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration we were able to honor several key community members with SERVICE AWARDS because of their distinguished contributions to BNGAP. The following individuals have helped BNGAP build community, complete scholarship, and maintain a respectful and inclusive culture.

### 2026 Outstanding Service Award

Joel Dickerman DO ([acceptance speech](#))

Nicholas Brutus MD ([acceptance speech](#))

Norma Poll-Hunter PhD

### 2026 Distinguished Service Award

Allison Acevedo JD

Mill Etienne MD ([acceptance speech](#))

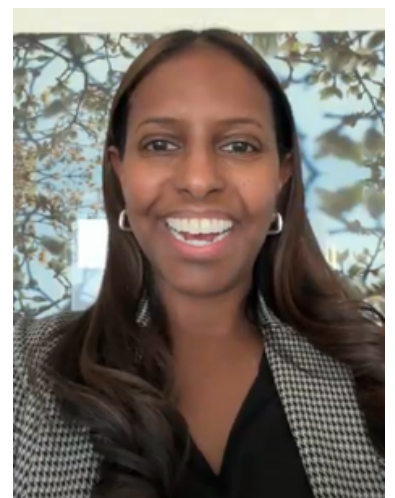
Mekbib Gameda EdD

Ray Lucas MD

Kara McBurnett ([acceptance speech](#))

Robert Salinas MD

Lahia Yemane MD ([acceptance speech](#))



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MEDICAL SCHOOL CLASS OF 2026

To the graduating medical school Class of 2026 — congratulations on reaching this extraordinary milestone.

Today, we celebrate not only your academic achievements, but also your resilience, compassion, perseverance, and commitment to serving others. Medical school demands countless hours of study, sacrifice, growth, and determination, and each of you has risen to meet those challenges with strength and purpose.

As you prepare to begin residency and the next chapter of your journey, remember that your impact extends far beyond clinics, hospitals, and classrooms. You represent the future of medicine — a future that is more compassionate, inclusive, innovative, and equitable because of the perspectives and experiences you bring to the profession.

At BNGAP, we are proud to celebrate the accomplishments of our students, trainees, and future physician leaders. We recognize the dedication it took to arrive at this moment, and we are excited to see the lives you will touch, the communities you will serve, and the change you will inspire throughout your careers.

Whether you are pursuing academic medicine, advocacy, research, primary care, surgery, or any path in between, know that your voice and leadership matter. The medical profession is stronger because of you.

Congratulations once again to the Class of 2026. Your journey is only beginning, and your future is incredibly bright.

With pride and admiration,  
BNGAP



**PREFAC**

Empowering Future Academic Careers

# HONORING ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

## MAY IS ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

This May, BNGAP proudly recognizes and celebrates the rich histories, cultures, traditions, and countless contributions of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities across medicine, science, education, advocacy, and public service.



**BNGAP**

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of Academic Physicians



Join our community today!  
Register at [www.BNGAP.org/registration](http://www.BNGAP.org/registration)

