

FSU groups plan candlelight vigil for AIDS awareness

Special to the Democrat 1:47 p.m. EST November 30, 2015

A candlelight vigil is planned for Wednesday at the Florida State University College of Medicine to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS' impact on public health locally as well as nationally. It's also designed to reduce the stigma associated with the disease; to provide education on preventive practices and health-care services available on campus and in the community; and to pay respect to those who have lost their lives to this disease as well as those living with it.

Among the activities will be free HIV testing and other health screenings, a musical performance by Patricia Brownell and a talk by Florida A&M University pharmacy faculty member Antonio Carrion.

The vigil, spearheaded by the medical school's chapter of the Student National Medical Association, is co-sponsored by two other medical student groups, GLAAM (Gays, Lesbians and Allies Advancing Medicine) and FSUCares, along with the Bond Community Health Center and MAACA (Minority Alliance Advocating Community Awareness and Action). Also on hand will be representatives from the Florida Department of Health in Leon County and Neighborhood Medical Center.

The Bond Center's mobile unit will provide free rapid HIV testing, as well as measurement of blood pressure, body-mass index and blood glucose, from 2:30 to 6 p.m. It will be parked outside the college's Clinical Learning Center on Stadium Drive.

The candlelight vigil is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. in the college's courtyard.

The College of Medicine is at Stadium Drive and Call Street. Parking is available in the Spirit Way parking garage and student lot on Stadium.

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