

News Release

U of M Crookston Assistant Professor of Psychology Alvin Killough, Ph.D., Gives Keynote Address at Fifth Annual African World AIDS Day

By Alvin Killough, Elizabeth Tollefson on Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Crookston, Minn. (December 9, 2008) – The African World AIDS Day Planning Committee recently hosted its fifth annual African World AIDS Day. The conference, held at South High School in Minneapolis, Minn., was focused on the theme “United in the Fight against AIDS.” University of Minnesota Crookston Assistant Professor Alvin Killough, Ph.D., gave the keynote address entitled “Being Black in the United States with HIV/AIDS.” The commemoration of African World AIDS Day is part of a national observance that began in 1988 marking December 1 as World AIDS Day.



Killough teaches as a cultural ecological psychologist at the U of M Crookston and has long advocated for underserved and understudied populations through his scholarly research and public speaking engagements. He has authored and coauthored twenty-nine publications. As a consultant on health education and promotion, cultural competency, substance abuse prevention, program proposal review and evaluation, and health disparities, Killough also provides technical assistance to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

African residents representing several African nations joined the unified efforts to commemorate African World AIDS Day to raise awareness about the impact HIV and AIDS has had on Africans living here and in their respective countries. African physicians, community leaders and survivors provided educational presentations while performers, exhibitors and culturally specific foods were also part of the day's events.

Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty proclaimed December 1 as World AIDS Day in Minnesota. For the past 21 years, the aim of the observance has been to bring to people's attention the challenges of living with HIV and to encourage a united global effort to halt the spread of the virus. To learn more, visit www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/hiv/worldaidsday/index.html.

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