

## **PRESS RELEASE**

July 12, 2012

### **ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS HONOR LEANNE ROBERTS FOR BEING ELECTED CHAIR OF THE AMA'S MEDICAL STUDENT SECTION**



Freeholder Brendan Gill of Montclair (right) presented the Board's Commendation to UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School student LeAnne Roberts of Bloomfield, congratulating her on her election as Chair of the American Medical Association's Medical Student Section. PHOTO BY GLEN FRIESON

(Newark, NJ) – During its Wednesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, meeting held at the Hall of Records, the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders honored LeAnne Roberts of Bloomfield, a fourth-year student at UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, for having been elected Chair of the American Medical Association's Medical Student Section (AMA-MSS), the largest organization of medical students in the United States. She will serve as Chair of the 47,000-member organization for a term of one year until June of 2013. The Board's Commendation was sponsored and presented to Ms. Roberts by District 5 Freeholder Brendan W. Gill of Montclair.

Ms. Roberts earned her B.S. degree in Biological Sciences from Cook College, Rutgers University, in 2007, and is currently pursuing both an M.D. degree and a Master's degree in Public Health with a concentration in Health Systems Policy.

The AMA-MSS is dedicated to representing medical students, improving medical education, developing leadership and promoting activism. It strives to be the leading voice not only for its members, but for medical students nationwide, and for improving medical education, advancing health care, and to be caring advocates for patients, the profession, and medical student members as the stewards of the future of medicine. AMA-MSS activities are overseen by an 8-member Governing Council, elected by the MSS Assembly at each Annual Meeting, which is responsible for appointing the MSS leadership, carrying-out policies and action items adopted by the Assembly, and directing the MSS agenda and strategies. The Chair of the MSS oversees the Governing Council, provides direction for national AMA-MSS initiatives, and represents the AMA-MSS within the organization itself and publicly to other organizations, bodies of government, and in the media.

As Chair of the Medical Student Section, Ms. Roberts has been very involved in leadership development and mentorship. She is an active participant in health policy, physician advocacy, business model innovation and community engagement. She also serves on several committees at New Jersey Medical School including the Student Affairs Advisory Committee, Curriculum Development Task Force and the Liaison Committee on Medical Education.

Prior to her election as Chair of the AMA-MSS, she served as AMA-MSS Region 6 Vice-Chair (which includes medical schools located in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia) and as a Student Trustee on the Medical School of New Jersey's Board of Trustees. She also served as Co-Director of the New Moms Mentoring Program where she worked with pregnant and post-partum teenagers and young adult women in Newark, conducted patient education of teenagers utilizing the University Hospital's OB/GYN Clinic, and conducted group sessions for post-partum women at Harmony House, a transitional living facility in Newark.

Ms. Roberts looks forward to pursuing her training in Obstetrics & Gynecology while continuing to work as an advocate for her profession and for women's health.

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