

Written by Bobby M. Reyes

Thursday, 24 December 2009 08:53 - Last Updated Thursday, 24 December 2009 09:25

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*Dateline Los Angeles, California, Dec. 24, 2009*

Willie DeChavez of Sterling Heights, Michigan, and the Bacon District of Sorsogon City, Philippines, has been elected as the first Filipino-American member of the Behavioral Health Board of Trustees of the Henry Ford Health System (HFHS).

Mr. DeChavez was named by this website an outstanding Filipino-American educator, as per this article, [Willie Dechavez Wins the First-ever "BalikTeacher" Award](#)

Willie DeChavez is a resource teacher in the Detroit's public-school system. Mr. Dechavez is a very-active community leader. He is also the state chair for Michigan of the National Federation of Filipino-American Associations (NaFFAA).

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He was also instrumental in forging sister-city ties between the Cities of Sorsogon and Sterling Heights of Michigan. More details of the sister-cityhood are found in this link,

[Sorsogon and Sterling Heights \(Michigan\) Become Sister Cities](#)

The Henry Ford Health System is the biggest health organization in the Great State of Michigan. Its System Board approved the nomination of Mr. DeChavez last Friday, Dec. 18, 2009. According to Engr. Ed Navarra, the NaFFAA regional chair for the Midwest , "Mr. DeChavez appointment as a member of the Behavioral Health Board of Trustees of the HFHS is probably the biggest Christmas gift that Michigan 's Filipino-American community has received this season."

As a Board member, Mr. DeChavez gets to participate in the Board's quarterly meetings, the Quality Expo and the Annual Trustee Caucus.

Sharon Walsh, chairperson of the HFHS Behavioral Health Board of Trustees, relayed the good news to Mr. DeChavez last Monday, December 21.

Next month Dr. Ed Coffey and Ms. Walsh will meet with Mr. DeChavez and share more information on the board and the goals for Behavioral Health. Both HFHS officials are looking forward to Mr. DeChavez's contributions as the Board has challenging goals and exciting plans for the next few years.

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Ms. Walsh thanked Mr. DeChavez for accepting the role of trustee. She said that she knows that he has many personal and professional commitments and she, along with all the trustees, appreciate his joining the Board and the Henry Ford Health System. She finally looks forward for an invitation after the New Year for a luncheon working meeting with Dr. Coffey and Mr. DeChavez. # # #

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