



## **M. Rony Francois**

Truly a Renaissance man, Dr. M. Rony Francois has two Master's degrees, an M.D. and a Ph.D., was a professional athlete, speaks three languages and holds the patent on a medical device. Last fall he became the first Haitian-American to head a Florida state agency, charged with responding to all threats to the public health, including terrorism and natural disaster. Before his appointment, Rony directed the public health program at the University of South Florida's College of Public Health.

Rony emigrated from his native Port-au-Prince to attend TCC in 1979. His first visit to the College in 25 years was last December, as keynote speaker at a pinning ceremony for the School of Nursing, where he exhorted graduates to practice preventive health care as well as preach it. Rony and his wife, Joelle, have three children.