

MINISTERS ALLIANCE REVEALS PLANS FOR EXPANSION OF BUSINESSES, JOBS

By Bob Palm

The Ministerial Alliance is working on a program to bring 300 businesses and 900 jobs to the black community in the next three to five years to help off-set the 50 percent unemployment among the

community's youths and 15 percent among the area's adult male population.

In 1983 the Alliance made Otis Harris, former executive director of the Southern Nevada Economic Development Council (SNEDCO), its economic

development advisor, and through its urging Harris charted the private, non-profit New Dawn Technical Institute to work in adjunct with the profit-making New Dawn Investment and Development Corp.

Both were created to bring jobs and economic development to the black community. With the institute individuals can donate or invest and get tax refunds on their dollars, and the corporation allows community members to collectively invest their dollars and to own a major project, Harris said.

To bring about its plans, the Alliance has been working in conjunction with the state, Clark County and the city of Las Vegas to build an incubator building somewhere in the community.

Harris said the incubator facility could bring 300 businesses and 900 jobs to the community in the next three to five years.

Harris said an incubator building is where a number of businesses work together under the same roof with affordable rents sharing

services and equipment and with equal access to professional and financial programs.

Harris said the facility "is just like a university with one manufacturing brain and the other businesses. It's a factory for businesses."

Harris said the next step in making the facility a reality is the development of a planning study to determine who will own the building, the types of businesses that should go into it, its location and its size.

Harris said the facility is the cornerstone of New Dawn and the base for the Alliance's development plan

in the community. Without such facilities, there is an 80 percent failure rate for new small businesses, but there is an 80 percent success rate for businesses starting in incubator buildings.

Harris said he figures it will cost about \$60,000 to conduct the planning study.

The city has committed \$25,000 to the cost of the study, the county \$10,000 and the state \$12,500.

He said the Alliance is pushing the state for commitment of the additional \$12,500 needed.

He said the Alliance hopes the state will see the need for the community to capture

part of the \$300 million that comes into the community every year through wages, but does not stay because there are very few places to spend it.

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costs while the new skills the trainees acquired will enable them to work and earn far into the future.

These figures are familiar to those of us in organizations that train people for jobs in an economy that needs higher skills levels. In the past, when government ran similar programs we saw similar results — the net benefits to the economy and to the government itself made job training a superb investment.

That message needs to go through to policymakers today. We should be tapping the neglected resources of disadvantaged minorities to make our economy work better.

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CORRECTION NOTICE

In the November 15, 1985 issue, The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice incorrectly reported that the Joan Brann drug workshop planned at the Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce was a training program for Ruby Duncan's drug program. It should have been reported that it was a training program of the Operation Life Medical Center.

The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice regrets the error and hopes that this report did not inconvenience any of the parties concerned.

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