

Education

SCHOOL TALK

By Dr. Marshall C. Darnell

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES

The 1985 State Legislature passed into law a bill entitled SB 121. The bill identified ten million dollars to be used by the school districts for special programs. The bill also stated that three million dollars must be used for the purchase of new equipment for vocational technology education. The legislature had heard testimony that America's industrial complex had changed significantly during the past decade and functions normally handled by individual workers were now being completed through robotics. Classroom instructional equipment, being used in many of the schools, was obsolete because of advances made in technology. Automobile engines today are analyzed

by a computer, and for most of the vocational programs, the microchip has had a direct impact upon the type of equipment used in every vocation.

The Clark County School District received more than one and a half million dollars to upgrade the equipment to be used in our vocational programs. Classroom instructors and principals were requested to identify specified equipment which would contribute to greater achievement by our students, and certainly would enhance the students' ability to obtain employment during the coming years.

These one-time monies will not meet the need that will continue to exist in this area because each new year

brings countless new changes in the equipment used for manufacturing, services, or the way that we live in our very homes.

Technological changes are taking place at all levels of education. Computer awareness programs have been developed for the elementary schools, and sophisticated program activities may be found in every classroom at every school level.

Telecommunications is no longer a concept, it is now a reality. Video programing is a common strategy used for introducing many difficult topics. It is difficult to find an office today where one or more individuals would not be involved in handling the office work without using

word processing or computer application. Satellite dishes dot the landscape. VCR recorders are almost a home necessity.

The funds used by the school district, to purchase vocational equipment in order to provide job market skill instruction, touched only one segment of the learning process. Technology will continue to have a major impact on all of education for years ahead. Without noticing the change, we have moved from the atomic age to the technology age, and with this move, we all have entered a new and exciting way of learning and living.

Nation's Black Colleges Ask Alumni to Give \$8 Million

Graduates of the nation's 114 black colleges and universities are being asked to contribute over \$8 million this September to increase financial support for black higher education through a fund-raising project titled "Payback '86."

Last Year's fund-raising efforts in this project totaled over \$4 million, said Hilliard L. Lackey, national coordinator of "Payback '86" and director of Alumni Affairs at Jackson State University. This is the second year the project has been conducted.

The funds were used to help pay delinquent accounts and establish scholarships at historically black colleges and universities across the nation, said Lackey.

"We're asking graduates of these institutions again this year to send a minimum of \$10 to their respective alma maters before Sept. 29 to help offset the financial shortfall that black colleges are continuing to experience," said Lackey.

The fundraiser is being sponsored by the Council of National Alumni Associations, a group of college alumni administrators who are focusing attention on the need to preserve black institutions of higher learning.

Rancho ROTC Instructors Selected by USAF as Outstanding Instructors

All three Rancho High School Air Force Junior ROTC instructors, Lt. Col. Don Campbell, S/MSgt Art Miller and S/MSgt Dennie Nelson, have been selected by the United States Air Force as Outstanding Instructors for the 1985-86 school year.

The honors took on a historical significance as it was the first time in the history of the Air Force



Lt. Col. Don Campbell



S/MSgt. Dennie Nelson



S. Msgrt. Art Miller

Junior ROTC program that three instructors at one school were selected for recognition.

These awards are presented to the top 10

percent of the 847 instructors worldwide. Selections are made by an active duty Air Force inspector who visits each school and sits in on academic classes.

These black colleges have graduated more than 80 percent of black graduates, although black colleges have only 43 percent of the black college enrollment, Lackey added.

Black colleges, in addition to graduating the majority of all black graduates, have virtually trained all of the black leadership in this country, Lackey said.

Eighty-five percent of the country's black lawyers were graduated from black colleges, 85 percent of all black physicians, 75 percent of all blacks with earned doctorates, 75 percent of all black officers in the American armed services, 50 percent of all black executives, and 80 percent

of the black judges.

Contributions for the fund-raising project should be made payable to the respective institution, earmarked "Payback '86," and mailed to the school's Office of Alumni Affairs. Non-Alumni gifts are acceptable and may be mailed to the historically black institution of the donor's choice.

CNNA will announce the individual college totals and the grand total on Sept. 29 at the Annual Black College Day Rally in Atlanta, Ga.

For more information, please contact Lackey at the JSU Office of Alumni Affairs, P.O. Box 17746, Jackson, Miss. 39217 or telephone (601) 968-2281.

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