

FEDERAL PROGRAM TRAINS BLACK SCIENTISTS

Dr. Betty Jones has been interested in science since she was a little girl growing up on a farm in Mississippi. As she watched tadpoles turn into frogs in her family pond at age 10, she dreamed of someday becoming a researcher. Today, she is an associate professor of biology at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, thanks to help from a unique Federal program now celebrating its 15th anniversary.

Called the Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) Program, it funds Federal grants to increase the number of minority students involved in biomedical research. Created in 1972 by the Division of Research Resources, National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Program began with a \$2 million annual budget divided among 38 mostly Black southeastern schools.

Fifteen years later, the MBRS program has grown significantly. In 1987 the Program awarded grants totaling \$38 million to support research at 100 institutions, nearly two and one-half times the number in 1972. Most MBRS grants are awarded to two- and four-year colleges, universities, and health professional schools where minorities comprise at least half the enrollment.

Says Dr. Jones: "When I received my bachelor of science degree from Rust College (in Holly Springs, Miss.), I wanted to continue studying biology as a graduate student. But I was just one of 11 children from a farming family, and there was no way my family could afford to send me to graduate school.

"I needed financial help," she says, "and I got that from the MBRS program. But I also needed a mentor, someone to take a personal interest in my career goals and to keep me pointed in the right direction. And I also got that from the MBRS program."

Because of the help Dr. Jones received, today she teaches upper-level biology courses at Morehouse and is director of the school's elec-

tron microscopy facilities. But despite her busy schedule, Dr. Jones has maintained ties to MBRS and now has students in the program assisting with her research. Like so many other former MBRS students, she has come full circle and is helping today's college students realize their own dreams.



With funding from the National Institutes of Health's Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) program, Black students are following the example of individuals such as Dr. Betty Jones, professor of biology and director of the electron microscopy facility at Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA, by opting for careers as research scientists in the health-related fields. Nearly 1,200 undergraduate and graduate students received MBRS funding last year.

In 15 years, 13,000 minority students have participated in MBRS-sponsored research, 7,900 of which have earned bachelor's degrees; many go on to pursue advanced degrees in the health sciences. Last year

alone, MBRS funds supported research positions for more than 1,100 undergraduate and graduate students.

Blacks and other minorities, says Dr. Ciriaco Gonzales, director of the NIH MBAS program, have long been underrepresented in biomedical science and, historically, have totaled less

than two percent of the scientific workforce. But thanks to the MBRS program, the percentage is increasing because minority science students are getting their chance.

techniques of Africa and the Near and Far East at the World Symposium on Choral Music in Vienna, Austria.

• Evelyn Henighan, a business and computer science teacher at the Career Center, who will take computer operator and user training sponsored by Data General Corp. in Massachusetts.

• Gail Howell, an exploratory home economics teacher at Wiley Middle School, who will study home economics education programs of urban and outback Australia.

• Jim Knight, a third-grade teacher of academically gifted students at Jefferson Elementary School, who will participate

in an underwater research expedition in the British Virgin Islands. Knight will study marine ecosystems and oceanography to develop materials for elementary science instruction.

• Wesley Leiphart, a German and math teacher at Parkland High School, who will study German at the University of Salzburg while living with an Austrian family.

• Helen Lowry, an English teacher at East Forsyth High School, who will study British and American writers and fiction of women (1880-1930) at Cambridge University in Great Britain.

• Jackie Pierce, a kindergarten through 12th-grade teacher of visually impaired students, who will attend Appalachian State University to study methodology for teaching visually handicapped students who are multi-handicapped.

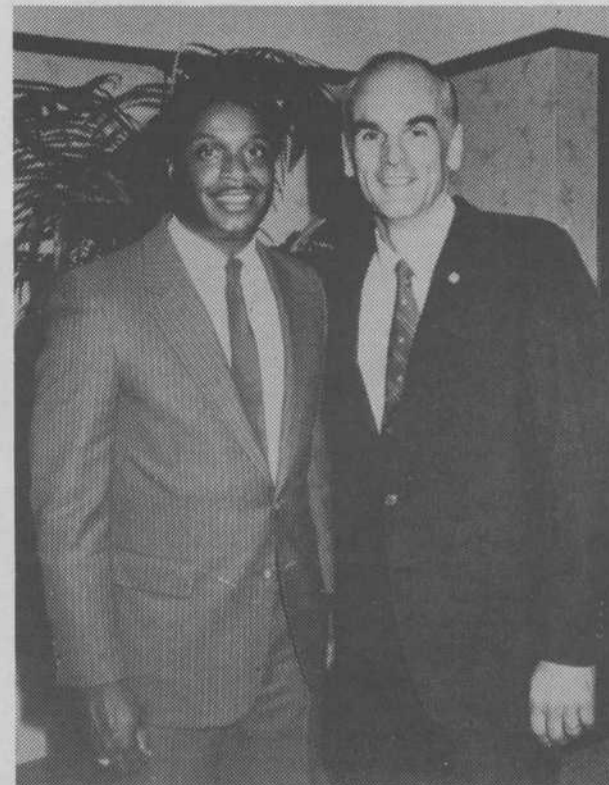
• Valderia Raynor, a teacher of educable mentally handicapped (EMH) students at Kernersville Elementary School, who will attend Ap-

BLACK BUSINESS ASSOCIATION OF LOS ANGELES CHAIRMAN GENE HALE MEETS WITH REAGAN CABINET MEMBER

Gene Hale, Chairman of the Black Business Association of Los Angeles recently met with the Secretary of the Interior Don Hodel to discuss business opportunities for Blacks with the various agencies within the Interior Department.

Hale said he and the Secretary discussed the need for the Interior Department to have its agencies such as the Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation and Land Management to be more responsive in their small business construction opportunities. Hale said as an example, the Bureau of Reclamation spends in excess of \$200 million a year in the western portion of the United States for construction projects.

Hale said that while many Black businesses concentrate their efforts on doing business with the Defense Department, there are tremendous opportunities that are being overlooked in other government agencies.



Gene Hale with Secretary of the Interior Don Hodel

"We need to broaden our scope and confront other government agencies that

shun their mandated obligations to Black owned businesses," said Hale.

TEACHER

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It's much more rewarding for the kids, because the minute you tell them you've been somewhere, it immediately sparks their interest."

The other teachers selected to participate in this year's RJR Nabisco Fellowship Program are:

• Judith Briggs, a health occupations teacher at South Park High School, who will study special education topics through the International Comparative Education Program at the University of London.

• Alice Dodson, a choral music teacher at Parkland High School, who will research choral music

Force to Nairobi, Kenya, to increase her understanding, knowledge and materials ABOUT African society and culture.

• Ursula Stephens, a reading coordinator at Old Town Elementary School, who will participate in the Teaching Reading Through Learning Styles Conference in San Francisco and develop social studies enrichment materials on regions, geography and cultural diversity.

• Carol Vogler, a social studies teacher at Parkland High School, who will study anthropology, archaeology, religion and art in Jordan, Syria, Israel and Turkey through Drew University.

palachian State University to study methodology and curriculum for teaching EMH.

• Charlie Rowe, a German and Spanish teacher at Carver High School, who will study German language and culture at the Goethe Institute German Cultural Center in Duesseldorf and will live with German families in West Berlin and Muenster.

• Renee Schmidly, an English teacher at Carver High School, who will conduct a self-designed study of literature and history in Great Britain to develop language arts materials.

• Nancy Sherrill, a seventh-grade language arts / social studies teacher at Ashley Middle School, who will travel with the Friendship

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