

Education

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HILTON

PART ONE:
SELECTED COMMUNITY
COLLEGES ENROLL-
MENT BY ETHNICITY



KEITH O. HILTON

January/February is the traditional time that high school seniors finally submit their college applications to those colleges that they are interested in attending.

For most of these students, it is now a matter of choosing once they have received acceptance (or rejection) letters from these schools.

For the most part, their minds have been made up and probably no other colleges will enter into the competition. Therefore this week's information is for high school juniors and their parents.

The following information is based on figures compiled by the U.S. Department of Education for the year 1988. It is safe to believe that the 1990 figures are probably not too much dissimilar to these.

In part one, we will list selected community colleges, in part two, we will list liberal arts colleges and comprehensive colleges.

Keep in mind that there are over 3,000 institutions of higher education, therefore, these schools only represent a very small percentage. Each of these colleges have African-American student enrollments of 40-70%.

Another reason that we are listing these schools, particularly the two year colleges, is because we want high school students and parents to consider as many options as possible.

Beginning one's college career at the local community college is financially an unbelievable bargain. The level of instruction is also usually quality and an excellent spring board.

A degree from one of these colleges would make an excellent match with any number of other fine U.S. or international colleges.

None of the historically African-American colleges that still have overwhelmingly African-American enrollments (70%) are included

in this list.

Draughtons Junior College (AL) — 427 students (54.5 African-American), Southern Junior College of Business, Huntsville (AL) — 509 (43.6), Capital City Junior College of Business (AR) — 44.2 (573).

Phillips County Community College (AR) — 1,486 (49.1), Compton College (CA) — 3,972 (60.1), Crandall Junior College (GA) — 643 (63.8), Meadows Junior College (GA) 358 (69.6), Harold Washington College (IL) — 7,915 (59.5).

Kennedy-King College (IL) — 8,650 (68.8), Malcolm X College (IL) — 9,853 (49.3), Prince George Community College (MD) — 13,443 (44.1), Roxbury Community College (MA) — 2,467 (62.8),

Wayne County Community College (MI) — 12,098 (64.7).

Mississippi Delta Junior College (MS) — 1,712 (41.9), Phillips Junior College, Jackson (MS) — 677 (43.4), Essex County College (NJ) — 5,664 (55.2), Manhattan Community College (NY) — 12,651 (54.1), Bronx Community College (NJ) — 5,725 (48.4).

Edgecombe Community College (NC) — 1,341 (47.1), Piedmont Community College (NC) — 990 (41.4), Roanoke-Chowan Community College (NC) — 634 (50.8), Pierce Junior College (PA) — 1,197 (40.7), Shelby State Community College (TN) — 3,822 (56.8).

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STEPHON SWEAT WINS KING ESSAY CONTEST

For 6-weeks the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission held an essay contest among all the high school juniors in Clark County. In observance of this year's theme "Living The Dream To Save The Children," the commission decided on the topic for the essay to be "How can the visions and dreams of Dr. King help today's youth to meet the challenges of life in 1991?" The following essay by Stephon Sweat of Western High School was this year's winner and given the opportunity to deliver it to the lawmakers of Nevada.

Here is Stephon's essay:

STEPHON SWEAT

How Can the Visions and Dreams of Dr. King Help Today's Youth Meet the Challenges of Living in 1991? Good Afternoon. First, give honor to God for blessing and allowing me to be here.

To the distinguished Governor and all his friends and dignitaries, I would like to thank you for selecting me to be here. This is a day I will never forget.

Dr. King's dream continues to influence us even in his absence. His dream was not only for blacks, but for all Americans. It was not only for the elderly, but for the youth as well. Although

times have changed and Dr. King is no longer with us, we as a people still have not achieved the dream.

As a youth growing up in the 90s, I feel we as young people must look beyond race, color, creed and religion and start helping each other realize we are in some terrible times. Gang violence and drugs are taking my peers and fellow classmates in rapid numbers — and it is very frightening to see so many of them with little or no support. Parents in today's society have little or no control over their children — and because of this lack of communication, it brings low self esteem.

Dr. King's visions and dreams would be just what the doctor ordered in the 90's. I say this because we are looking for someone to pattern our lives after. We are hungry for someone to help us truly believe that we are somebody — and that we can be what we want to be, only if we work hard for it. The youth of today are not really copping out. It's really a matter of needing more moral support from family, friends and other people in our community.

Today's youth have been affected by Dr. King in a number



Western High School Junior, Stephon Sweat delivers his award winning essay "How can the visions and dreams of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. help today's youth to meet the challenges of life in 1991" at the opening of the 66th session of the Nevada State Legislature.

of ways. We now have an opportunity for higher education, which brings about self-esteem and preparations for a better future. Dr. King said and did things which let young people know that it is okay to be proud, and to stand up for what you believe in, and to say whatever you feel is right. I feel that one of the best things Dr. King could have left us was a chance to know that we have a choice, and it is because we are of a different race, it is not wrong.

Dr. King's visions and dreams are still alive in America today, but as a youth I do not feel that we have realized how to achieve his dream. I personally feel that we must put all of our differences aside and accept each other for who we are. Secondly, we should understand that we are the future and we may be called upon to make decisions which affect us all. And finally, we must put Christ back in all of our lives.

As a young African-American male, I strongly feel that there is hope for my generation, and as long as we have support from our elders we can make a difference in this place we call the land of the free.

As we sit with our eyes glued to the television screens watching our country at war — I must say that it is time for us all to

come together and help each other truly understand what Dr. King's dream stood for.

In closing, I feel that Dr. King was one of the greatest men of all times. This man withstood many beatings, and arrests, and much criticism — but still received praise and won the hearts of all Americans, black and whites alike. Unlike Malcolm X's theory, Dr. King believed that we could live in peace and happiness together.

If he were here today — I sometimes wonder where we would be in a time where racism is again on the rise — and youth are faced with teen pregnancy, gang violence, and deadly drugs. I believe the generation would be a little better as far as race relations — and have a more positive outlook on life. Although he is not here with us physically, he is with us mentally and spiritually. And I know that today's youth will make it through hope and prayer — and we will all be able to live in the place we call the land of the free. To the Governor and the Legislature, I wish you all the best of luck in your session today. I want to thank you again and wish you good luck and God bless you.

Stephon, congratulations from all the proud people of Clark County.

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