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THIS AFRICAN AMERICAN JOURNALIST ALSO PLANS TO BE AT THE AAJA CONVENTION IN AUGUST



KEITH O. HILTON

AAJA stands for Asian American Journalists Association. This important journalism association will be having its sixth annual national convention August 18-21 in Los Angeles.

AAJA was founded in 1981 and today has over 1,000 members with 12 chapters nationwide. According to its literature, the primary charges of AAJA are to increase employment and provide support for Asian American print and broadcast journalists; assist high school and college students pursuing careers in journalism; and encourage fair, accurate, sensitive news coverage of Asian American community issues.

Since October 1988, AAJA has also participated with the National Association of Black

Journalists (NABJ), National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ) and the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA), on joint activities.

In addition to past and current joint activities, in 1994, these four powerful groups are coming together to host a UNITY convention in Atlanta.

It is worth noticing that for the most part, members of these four organizations are employed with the predominantly European American (white) media - not all, but a high percentage.

This is pointed out for two reasons, 1) any talk of unity should include representatives of African, Asian, Latino and Native American owned media as well as representatives who work for the alternative media.

To have discussions about unity in the field of journalism with key players not at the table is potentially non or at best low productive.

It is akin to having an African American student leadership conference that is only open to students from colleges such as Georgetown, the University of Hawaii, Stanford and Northwestern, and not allowing participation from the student leadership of Howard, Hampton, Texas Southern or Harris-Stowe.

The second reason that we pointed out the above was because the Asian American, Native American, African American and Latino American owned press(es) have so much to bring to the table, but have not consistently stepped forward.

Consequently, many Asian American journalists and so forth working at non ethnic owned organizations may feel abandoned or alienated by the very institutions that are most suited to nurture them.

In the long run, the National

Association of Black Journalists will only be as strong as an organization such as the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), but the NNPA will never reach its fullest until it showcases its outstanding journalists - placing them on equal billing with their African American counterparts at the Los Angeles Daily News, the Chicago Tribune or the Washington

Times.

These journalists and prospective journalists (i.e. college students) working for NNPA member newspapers will then be in a stronger position of respect when they participate in NABJ activities.

In a scenario such as the one just described, if replicated within the community of ethnic journalists, each of the four communi-

ties, their fields and places of employment will all benefit. At least that is how we see it all the time. Let's see what happens in August in LA and also next year in Atlanta.

HILTON HIGHER EDUCATION is designed to dialogue with college and world readers. Education is ongoing and certainly not limited to classroom study. Let's talk. (909) 899-0650.

MINORITY STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN NASA'S NEW EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

NASA has announced the selection of 100 minority high school students to participate in a new NASA education program called SHARP PLUS Research Apprenticeship Program.

SHARP PLUS is a collaborative effort between NASA, Historically Black Colleges and Universities and aerospace and other industries to increase the opportunities and experiences for minority students interested in careers in mathematics, science and engineering by offering research apprenticeships.

The ultimate goal of SHARP PLUS is to help increase the number of minorities in the science and engineering professions by providing students hands-on opportunities to enhance their college education and career choices.

On June 21, students began participating in an 8-week, research-based, mentor program, held at five predominantly minority universities located near NASA field centers.

The students were selected from over 600 applicants based on their aptitude and interest in science and engineering. During the 8-week program, students will live on campus and spend about 80 percent of their experience working with re-

searchers on cutting-edge research projects performed at nearby industrial sites or in the universities' research laboratories. Students will earn a salary for their time spent as apprentices.

The following universities are hosting 20 SHARP PLUS apprentices this summer: Alabama A&M University, Normal; Florida A&M University, Tallahassee; Hampton University, Hampton, Va.; Morgan State University, Baltimore, Md.; Texas Southern University, Houston

Each student will be placed with mentors based on the student's areas of interest and their skill levels. Assignments will be selected according to the best opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills to contribute to the research project.

Twenty percent of each student's experience will be spent in campus-related activities such as lectures, tours, career counseling and interacting with current technical professionals. Each student, as well

SCHOOL DISTRICT'S TESTING BOOKLET RECOGNIZED IN NATIONAL PUBLICATION

The Clark County School District's testing and evaluation booklet was recognized as an outstanding source of compre-

as their mentor, will prepare written reports about their individual activities, what they have learned and their progress in the program.

Throughout the apprenticeship, each student will have careful work-site residential supervision and guidance by a SHARP PLUS faculty coordinator at each university.

For consideration in the program, students must be at least 16 years of age, enrolled in high school and have completed the 10th grade.

The courses required include algebra, geometry and at least 1 year of biology, chemistry or physics with a grade of B or better. Students also must demonstrate an interest in pursuing a science or engineering career.

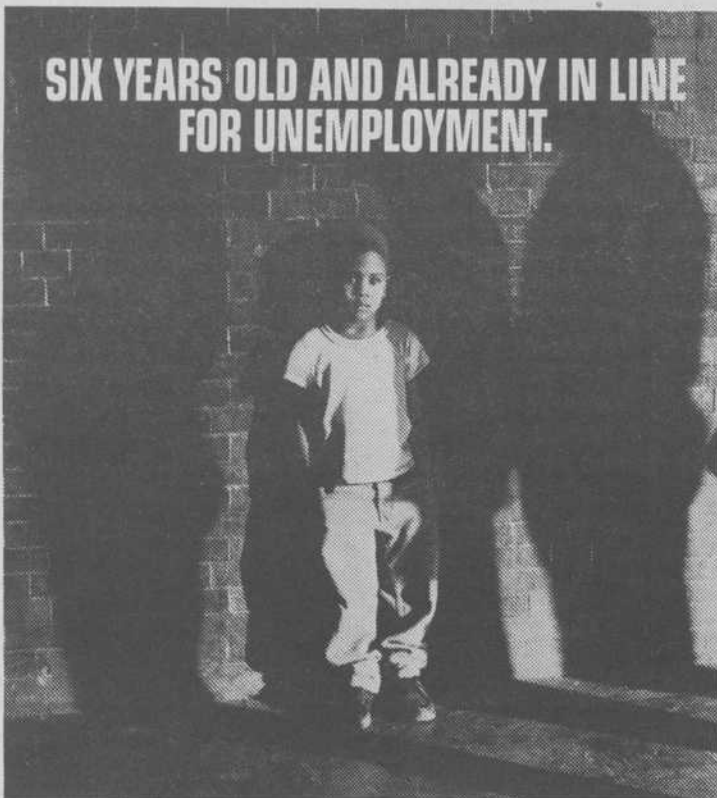
The Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) network, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the education of minorities throughout the nation, serves as NASA's facilitator for the new education program.

The article commends the booklet, explaining that it "paints a portrait of each school using many descriptors, including test scores, socioeconomic breakdowns and special programs."

Also included in the booklet are graphs that visually tell the story of each school's test scores verses the students' ability levels.

The national recognition has resulted in numerous calls and letters from school districts across the country requesting copies of the booklet, said Judy Costa, director of testing and evaluation.

SIX YEARS OLD AND ALREADY IN LINE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT.



By the time a child is six years old, experts can tell if he's at risk to drop out of high school. They can predict who will have a hard time keeping a job. And even who is more likely to end up on welfare. Thirteen million American children live below the poverty line. And they need help before the age of six to improve their chances in life.

Early intervention programs are crucial. And they do work. Programs like Success

by Six have proven that a poor child who receives help early on can hope for a much brighter future.

But these programs need help from people like you. People to answer the phone, do odd jobs, raise money or play with a child. Whether you give an hour of your time or a box of used toys, it can make a world of difference. Call 1-800-733-5400 to see what you can do to help in your area.

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