

# NEVADA PARTNERS

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have been referred to local hospitals for receptionist positions while others have been referred to insurance and banking institutions. Entry-level positions may be desirable for the majority of Nevada Partners students, however, they are encouraged to seek upward mobility to climb the ladder to higher paying positions.

"I just saw today what reiterated my feelings about the po-

tential for all of the individuals that applied in the program. That they can do it, they've got incentive, they are not going to let anybody keep them down and they are going to get the skills that are needed get out there and get the jobs that they want."

"We've had some excellent students graduate today. I was just as excited as they were. They completed thirty-two hours of instruction. Four-hour classes, four days a week and they get

through the entire curriculum by Friday and then they get the certificates," said Paula Avery, Project Manager for Nevada Partners.

Avery was so overwhelmed with the potential of the program that she left her post as Human Resource Director at the Binions Horseshoe Hotel and Casino. She began her experience in personnel in 1982 with the City of Las Vegas for a number of years before starting at Binions.

"We provide our students with the training so that they can market themselves at some of the premier properties. Right now, if you went to MGM, or Treasure Island, or Luxor - and you didn't have any previous employment experience - your chances of getting employed there would be very low - because you don't have anything that you can use to compete with all of the local residents that are competing for those jobs," she said.

Along with the dignitaries and board members that were pres-

ent were human resource representatives and other officials from Nevada Business services, MGM Grand Hotel/Casino and Movie Theme Park, Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County, Luxor Hotel and Casino; Treasure Island Hotel and Casino Culinary Union Local 226; Nevada State Welfare Department; Literary Council for learning disabled persons - and Bridge Counseling, just to name a few.

Avery brings a wealth of experience to Nevada Partners such as handling labor contract negotiations with three different collective bargaining organizations; recruitment and training and an internship training background under Cindy Kiser, Vice-president, Human Resources, MGM Grand Hotel - while employed at the Sands Hotel and Casino.

Avery said that the staff at the Life Skills Center are a compliment to each other bringing a highly qualified and talented team whose sole goal is to make sure that the students who

graduate from the program are prepared for every aspect of the work environment.

Kiser commented that she was on hand to show moral support and wish the greatest success to the efforts of Nevada Partners.

"We (MGM) hope to hire a lot of people who are graduates of the STEP program," she said enthusiastically.

"The few graduates that I met this morning were very enthusiastic, and they were very anxious to meet and talk to us, which is a good sign. They are definitely ready to go to work," she said.

"We have a total of 8,000 jobs that will be available and 1200 of these will be offered through Tony Gladney of the Employment Opportunity Program (EOP)," she said.

Tony Gladney, Community Affairs Director, MGM Grand Hotel said that the program offered hope as far as working and preparing individuals for the workplace.

"The students can become self-sufficient and self-supportive. They can begin to go on the job and not feel like they have to be lost. It offers another bright component in our community, and that is putting people back to work," he said.

Gil Luna, STEP program instructor for Nevada Partners, said that in his opinion the program was essential in helping people to understand the employment process and the entire job referral process.

"It allows the students to see themselves in a whole different perspective. It gives them immense self-esteem, it opens doors for them that they might have felt were closed before, and up until this day, I think this program will help people who were unable to help themselves," he said.

## GOURRIER

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period of time."

One of the unique challenges of Faye Herron campus-as it is presently configured - is the fact that fifty-percent of our population are Hispanic youngsters which offers a particularly unique challenge to the staff at this school and to the administration in servicing what are certainly some varying, unique and different needs of this community," he said.

He said that as a community educator, his background and formal training at Eastern Michigan University and an internship at the National Center for Community Education in Flint Michigan, will test the skills that he has learned to the fullest extent. He said that he looked forward to the challenge and that he would encourage parental involvement at every level in the educational process.

Dr. Gourrier thrives on challenges and with his present assignment at the helm of one of the largest elementary campuses in the district - he believes that with the teamwork and partnership of administration, staff, local businesses and other concerned entities being actively involved in the education process, the students will become beacons of hope in his vision and insight for generations to come.

Nedra Cooper-Scott, Board member, Nevada Partners, said that she was highly encouraged by the feedback that was given by the graduates.

"You never really know the extent of what you are teaching until you start to receive feedback from the students and one of the highlights of today's events for me as a board member that is not around during the training sessions and who hasn't very often met with the students to hear their honest and very candid opinions of how the programs has helped them...they feel very competent and confident that they will be able to go out and get jobs.

Finally, she said that Nevada Partners plans to be around a long time to work with the economically disadvantaged and to try to be an advocate for them so that they can get jobs and eventually become self-sufficient.

For more information on how you can become involved in this worthwhile program call (702) 385-2500.

## LETTERS

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ers and sisters and with the power of unity correct the wrong.

Anyone having difficulty with the CAT bus system and their attitude of injustice even though we are putting food on their tables and roofs over their heads with our hard earned dollars, is asked to call (702) 593-0239 or write John/Arsola Nuby, 4770 E. Owens Avenue #B105, Las Vegas, NV 89110.

In unity there is strength.

John and Arsola Nuby  
P.S. Some black drivers have stated that on predominantly white ridden lines they have been victimized by racial slurs and insults. For their job protection - we will not divulge their names unless they ask for us to.

## NNPA

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Esq., publisher-editor, The Macon Courier, Macon Georgia (1st vice president); John Smith, publisher-CEO, Atlanta Inquirer, Atlanta, Georgia (2nd vice president); Floyd Adams, publisher, Savannah Herald, Savannah, Georgia (Secretary); and Dorothy Leavell, publisher, Gary Crusader, Gary, Indiana (Treasurer).

Bogle's first term as NNPA president was notable for its emphasis on planning, enhanced advertiser relationships, professional development for the member publications, and the dedication of the Association's first headquarters office building in Washington, D.C. For his second term, he has committed the NNPA to greater national visibility and leadership, and to a more aggressive program for attracting national advertising dollars to the country's black newspapers.

Commenting on his re-election, Bogle said, "One of our most important goals over the next two years is to make the NNPA a stronger voice in our communities across the country and in national issues affecting African-American people."

Formed in 1940, the NNPA convenes publishers of African-American-owned newspapers in the interests of advancing their mutual economic and professional concerns.

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## AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

### MARY ELIZA MAHONEY (First Black Graduate Nurse)

By Gwen Walker

Mary Eliza Mahoney was born in 1895 in Boston Massachusetts. Before the end of the 19th century many nurses were untrained. Since doctors were not available many women began to deliver babies and provide folk remedies for illnesses. When the nursing schools began to open up after the Civil War, Black women were usually not allowed to attend them. Mary Eliza Mahoney was an exception. She was the first African-American woman to graduate from a professional white nursing school. Her interest in nursing began when as the oldest daughter in a family of 25, she acted as the midwife at the birth of her younger brothers and sisters.

She wasn't accepted at the New England Hospital for Women and children in Boston until she she was 33 years old. This was the first American school to introduce a nursing program. Dr. Marie Zakrzewska was the head of the school, and she was a firm believer in equal rights for women and for Blacks. Under her guidance six Black nurses graduated by 1899. Mary was the first. The nursing course lasted 16 months, and Mary worked 16 hours a day, seven days a week. The courses and physical work was so difficult, only three women out of a class of 40 graduated - two white and Mary.

After Mary's graduation in 1879 she worked 40 years constantly trying to help other Blacks to graduate. Because of her timeless efforts the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses established the Mary Mahoney Award in 1936. The award is now given to those African-American nurses who have contributed much to this profession like Mary did over one hundred years ago.



GWEN WALKER

