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HILTON



KEITH O. HILTON

A GUEST EDITORIAL: One Successful High School Mentorship program

It is the policy for HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION to encourage feedback from readers. Periodically we print guest editorials that are designed to stimulate discussion and further feedback - pro or con to our positions.

The following is an editorial by Ms. Wanda G. Spraggins, Counselor/Community Liaison at William Fleming High School in Roanoke, Virginia. (703) 981-2065. If readers wish to comment on this or other essays or submit an article, please write: c/o HILTON HIGHER EDUCATION, 3179 N. Garey Avenue, #101, Pomona, CA 91767 or call or fax us at (909) 899-0650.

While reading an article entitled, "If I Could Do Just One Thing..." in the May 1993 issue of Travel and Leisure magazine, I focused in an entry that discussed the need for our communities to "Mentor the Young." Edward James Olmos, actor, board member of Rebuild L.A. and author of this entry, stated that there is no rite of passage for today's youth.

He correctly theorizes that some of our youths are being educated by their peers rather than by their elders. He encourages every business owner to "mentor" at least one child other than their own. Olmos concluded that his strategy could "really make a difference" in the life of just one child.

William Fleming High School in Roanoke, Virginia, has witnessed the materialization of the dream that Olmos expounds upon because of a Mentorship program established in 1991 by Mr. Herb Roper and 15 of his professional colleagues employed at Allstate Insurance Company.

The purpose of this program is to encourage graduation from high school, to expose students to post secondary education options, to promote self-esteem, and to let students know what there are people in the community who care about them.

The program started with selected students entering the second semester of their ninth grade year. Each student was "paired" with a mentor who keeps a watchful eye on the student's academic and personal life.

The group meets one day a month at school during Club Day activities. These meetings focus on group discussions that range from youth violence, the interviewing and job search skills, AIDS, and a variety of topics that teenagers face in the 90's.

Field trips to college campuses and cultural events like plays and museums are incorporated in the program in order to give the students an opportunity for exposure in sometimes unknown areas.

The LAS VEGAS SENTINEL-VOICE

Team spirit is promoted in sports activities such as bowling and basketball.

As we enter our third year of program activities, we see the maturation process unfold in each student. This growth is evident in decision making skills, self esteem, and academic success.

In my opinion as counselor/program site coordinator, the impact of this program makes me realize that mentorship can make a difference in the lives of students.

EDUCATION

BLACK EXCEL OFFERS FREE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

BLACK EXCEL, the nationwide College Help Network, is offering free copies of its newsletter, BLACK EXCEL NEWS. Published quarterly, the newsletter features articles about how to apply to college and win scholarships.

Isaac J. Black, founder of BLACK EXCEL, says that issues of the newsletter include valuable information about financial aid, the admissions process, SAT and ACT tests, majors, Historically Black and mainstream colleges, Greeks, transferring, getting recommendations, tutoring services, college tours, as well as interviews with students and school administrators.

The newsletter also features a "Tidbits" column (short notes of interest for the college-bound), college and student profiles, and the inside word on subjects like campus racism, private and state schools, the Ivy League, and the Black college/white college debate.

Of special value are issues on "How to get into a College" for the super, average, and "need-a-second-chance" student.

BLACK EXCEL has been a resource for hundreds of students since its founding in 1989. It has provided colleges, high schools, church organizations, and libraries with information packages and advice.

Interest has come from all

regions of the US as well as from Bermuda, Jamaica, and the Virgin Islands.

Besides offering personalized counseling letters for parents and students, BLACK EXCEL offers a 250-Plus Scholarship List (with instructions), a/24 Historically Black Colleges

FITZGERALD PRIME 6 SCHOOL HOLDS WINTER CARNIVAL

Games, food and prizes will highlight the winter carnival being planned by parents of students who attend Fitzgerald Prime 6 School. The carnival will be held on Saturday, December 4, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the school grounds, 2651 N. Revere St.

The school's Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) is sponsoring the event to raise money for educational materials, field trips and other educational activities.

REGISTRATION BEGINS FOR LIFE SKILLS CLASSES

Nevada Homes for Youth is currently registering interested teenagers in Life Skills/Independent Living Classes to begin January 25th. The classes will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., through May 12th, 1994, in Beam Hall Room 217 on the UNLV campus.

The Life Skills classes cover a variety of topics that all teens need to learn to prepare for life as an adult. They include completing job applications, interview skills, maintaining a job, job training and educational opportunities, banking, budgeting, transportation, housing and utilities, insurance, nutrition, budg-

List, with other extras available.

Writer Isaac J. Black is a winner of the Gwendolyn Brooks Award, a lecturer on the college admissions process, and youth counselor. With the help of his BLACK EXCEL team, he fulfills an essential need for students who need help.

Students, parents, grade advisors, and other interested parties can obtain a free copy of the newsletter.

Send your name, address and three first-class stamps (inside your envelope) to BLACK EXCEL, 28 Vesey Street, Suite 2239, New York, NY 10007.

Parents and community members are invited to the carnival to participate in games that include relay races, a bean bag toss and go fish. Hot dogs, nachos and other foods will be available for carnival goers.

Other events planned during the day include performances by the school band, spirit leaders and the Fitzgerald Flyers, a 70-member student tumbling group.

eting, safety and drug awareness. Classes are open to young adults between the ages of 15 and a half and 21. High school students can earn up to one-half

credit towards graduation. Class size is limited, so early registration is encouraged. To register or for more information call 256-9200.

CCSN RECEIVES DONATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

A \$2,000 donation was made to The Community College of Southern Nevada by The Community Action Recycling Program (CARP), a non-profit public foundation supported by the employees of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Grant employees.

The donation, which is to be used specifically for scholarships in environmental sciences, was presented by Marianne Carpenter, CARP president, and accepted by Dr. Herbert Peebles, the CCSN Vice President of Academic Affairs.

CARP was formed on Earth Day 1990, expressly to raise money for environmental education. Funds for the donation came solely from the groups recycling efforts and the sales of environmentally oriented T-shirts, according to Carpenter. This is the second year that the organization has made a donation to The Community College of Southern Nevada and they plan to donate again next year.

Representing CARP at the acceptance ceremony were: Marianne Carpenter, president; Augusta Dent, secretary; Faye Terkel, sales; Brian Spavin, vice president; and Kathie Stephens, treasurer.

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WAAK-UP

and

Las Vegas Housing Authority . . .

. . . Sponsor a reception for parents and community members with nationally known educator.

HARRIETT DOSS WILLIS, African American Educator with the Southwest Educational Region Lab in Los Angeles will work with Prime 6 Schools on November 29th, 30th and December 1st. She will conduct staff development sessions to facilitate accomplishment of Prime 6 goals and students' success.

On November 30th, at 3:00 p.m., Marzette Lewis and WAAK-UP have organized a session for Ms. Willis to meet with parents and community members. Strategies to foster parents involvement in their child's education will be emphasized. The Las Vegas Housing Authority will sponsor a reception immediately following so parents can interact with Ms. Willis informally.

The activity will be held at Matt Kelly Prime 6 School in the Multi-Purpose Room. Parents and community members are encouraged to attend and participate in this important dialogue.

Kids R Smart

LEARNING CENTER

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"A MIND IS A MARVELOUS
THING TO DEVELOP"