

EDUCATION

Martin Luther King, Jr. Choice Tutorial Program Receives Grant

Las Vegas—The Choice Tutorial program of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee of Las Vegas has received a financial boost from Bank of America Nevada with a \$5,000 Bank of America Foundation grant. According to Belinda Thompson, executive director of MLK, Bank of America's financial support will not only help the organization's Choice Tutorial program, it will also help fund several other programs including the back-to-books and annual banquet programs.

"Without the support of companies like Bank of America, we could not begin to accomplish the many wonderful and much needed programs we provided to the at-risk youth and families throughout the Las Vegas valley," Thompson said.

The Choice Tutorial program enhances what school age children are taught in the classroom. The program has 414 students attending 23 tutorial sites throughout the Las Vegas area. Each learning site is staffed by one instructor and an assistant during the hours of 3 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Students who take part in the program are also provided with fresh dairy and juice products each day, along with a snack.

"We are proud to be part of an organization that is making a difference in the lives of so many people who need help," said Randy Dawson, executive vice president of BofA Nevada's Consumer Banking Division. "The various programs



A \$5,000 grant from Bank of America will help fund the Choice Tutorial program of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Committee of Las Vegas. Pamela Jackson (l-r) and Belinda Thompson of MLK are pictured accepting the grant from BofA's Randy Dawson and Joselyn Cousins.

administered by the Martin Luther King Committee are exactly the kind of programs Bank of America looks to become involved in as part of its overall community outreach efforts."

Dawson added that the bank

will award approximately 300 grants this year to nonprofit organizations throughout Nevada. He says this support will amount to more than \$500,000.

BankAmerica Foundation is

the philanthropic arm of BankAmerica Corporation. The foundation funds private, nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations that engage in health and human services, education, conservation and the arts.

Study Says TV Can Help Young Children Become Better Thinkers, Problem Solvers

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Good news for parents. A new national study indicates that effective television programming can help young children become more flexible thinkers and better problem solvers, among other positive influences.

Results from a six-month study of 202 children aged 3 to 5 showed significant gains over time in flexible thinking and

problem-solving abilities after regular viewing of two Nick Jr. programs geared to preschool viewers.

The results were called "dramatic" by the study's director, Dr. Jennings Bryant of the University of Alabama, a nationally respected scholar on children's television programming who was involved in the early work of the Children's

Television Workshop on the Public Broadcasting System (PBS).

"This study shows that some effects of television can occur rapidly and relatively easily, while other types of impact are very gradual, occurring over time," Bryant said. "This sort of longitudinal field experiment has never been done before.

"Overall, these results offer

concerned parents encouragement as they monitor their children's television viewing habits."

Widely published in the area of children's television and the effects of television on the American family, Bryant is professor and holder of the Ronald Reagan Chair of Broadcasting and director of the Institute for Communication Research in the College of Communication at the University of Alabama. He is a scholar and

consultant on entertainment theory and the use of entertainment in education.

The two programs tested were "Allegra's Window" and "Gullah Gullah Island," both broadcast by the Nick Jr. arm of the children's cable television network, Nickelodeon.

"When we learned that Nick Jr. was producing two promising television programs designed to teach flexible thinking skills, problem solving and selected

(See STUDY, Page 6)

Law Firm of Smith & Williams

ATTORNEY AT LAW



TIMOTHY C. WILLIAMS

Timothy Williams is a member of the Nevada & Illinois State Bar, practicing primarily in personal injury cases.

COMBINED 27 YEARS OF LEGAL EXPERIENCE

EMPHASIS ON PERSONAL INJURY CASES

- Automobile Accidents
- Motorcycle Accidents
- Slips & Falls
- Wrongful Death
- Dog Bites
- Pedestrian & Other Bodily Injuries
- Medical Malpractice

892-0000

1785 E. Sahara Ave. Ste. 337
Las Vegas, Nevada

Neither the State Bar of Nevada nor any agency of the State Bar has certified any lawyer identified here as a specialist or expert. Anyone considering a lawyer should independently investigate the lawyer's credentials and ability.

THE EDUCATION MINUTE

Warning Signs of School Drop Outs

By Mary Peterson, Nevada Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Nevada State Board of Education

Parents sometimes become less involved when their child enters high school. But this is a critical time in decision making for parents and children. The worst decision a teen can make is to drop out of school.

Be alert for behavior that often indicates a problem:

- * Low academic achievement and poor grades
- * Absenteeism from school or chronic tardiness
- * Behavior problems in and out of school
- * Lack of participation in school activities
- * "Hanging out" on a regular basis
- * Lack of self confidence
- * Having to repeat a grade in high school
- * Being labeled or tracked as a low achiever
- * Use of drugs or alcohol, and
- * Expressions of boredom or dissatisfaction with school.

If your child does drop out, many schools have set up several ways to get a high school diploma. Alternative high schools offer smaller classes and students have access to more immediate services and industrialized attention. These schools also usually offer the General Educational Development Test or GED, which provides anyone a second chance to get a diploma.

If you have an idea to contribute to the Education Minute, please call 702-333-1392.