

EDUCATION

Student standards' initiative goes nationwide

By Denise Laing
Special to Sentinel-Voice

A Washington, D.C.-based education reform initiative is now expanding nationwide after widespread academic success in its pilot sites.

"This program is important to the African-American community because African education is underserving African-American students through a system of tracking kids into low level dead-end courses. African-American students are being prepared for the permanent underclass; they are not being prepared to be productive citizens," said Vinetta C. Jones, Ph.D., a leading authority on education reform and the executive director of EQUITY 2000, which was originated by the College Board.

"EQUITY 2000 is a districtwide systemic education reform program that builds on what we have learned over the past 25 years about what works in helping all kids

reach high levels of learning," Dr. Jones said.

EQUITY 2000 began in 1990 as a comprehensive (K through 12) program. It seeks to redress the gap in the success rates and college enrollment between minority and non-minority, advantaged and disadvantaged youth by eliminating tracking at all grade levels and in all subjects.

The goal of EQUITY 2000 is "academic excellence for all students." The impetus for developing this reform was the result of research done by the College Board, indicating that low-income and minority students who master algebra and geometry have expectations to go on to college, and succeed in college at about the same rate as their non-minority peers.

The program provides extensive professional development for elementary, middle and high school teachers, counselors and administrators. It offers

academic enrichment for students and provides parent-involvement initiatives that make parents effective advocates for their children's education. In addition, the program provides assistance with management and evaluation of student data to drive education decisions.

"Our challenge, as a nation, is to help all students meet the highest standards of achievement in rigorous courses that provide the opportunity for college careers," said Donald Stewart, Ph.D., the president of the College Board. "All sectors of society must rally around public schools to raise expectations for what our educational system and students can accomplish. EQUITY 2000 offers a coherent and comprehensive strategy for strengthening our schools and provides a framework for tying together other reform initiatives that school districts already have in place. It gives school personnel — from the superintendent to the classroom teacher — the tools and technical assistance they need to overhaul the system for higher standards."

The six EQUITY 2000 pilot sites include Fort Worth, Tex.; Milwaukee, Wis.; Nashville, Tenn.; Prince George's County, Md.; Providence, RI; and San Jose, Calif.. The program includes 14 school districts, 700 schools, and 500,000 students.

The grade percentage of ninth graders enrolled in Algebra I rose from a range of

31 to 69 percent before the EQUITY 2000 program was instituted in the pilot districts, to a range of 61 to 100 percent.

"EQUITY 2000 is responsible for the attitudinal change of all personnel in our school district—especially the mathematics teachers, and counselors — that all students are capable of learning when given the support. EQUITY 2000 pushed the entire district to higher graduation standards," said Mary Henry, site coordinator for Milwaukee, which has a 65 percent African-American student body. "For students who never thought they could make the grade, it is gratifying to see their confidence levels increase when they discover they can achieve at high levels of learning."

"Through EQUITY 2000 we have seen school systems that have changed in ways that are positive for kids. The idea was always to figure out how to change a whole school system, and then to share that with other districts, so we could reach the ultimate national goal of closing the achievement gap," Dr. Jones said.

"We are not saying all students must go to college. We are saying that all students should have the option and be prepared at a higher standard to meet the challenges of this technological society in the 21st century — we cannot afford to leave any child behind," he said.

For information on EQUITY 2000 call (202) 822-5930.



By Dr. Keith
Orlando Hilton

Columnists speak at colleges

Now is an excellent time for college student leaders and organizations to finalize their calendars for February and beyond.

There is a group of scholars/practitioners prepared to serve as resources and guest lecturers at colleges and universities throughout this nation. Don't hesitate to utilize their expertise, not just during February, but throughout the year for student leadership training, community forums or even as staff development facilitators.

Some of these people are already known. Some are emerging. All are excellent spokespersons for contemporary African world issues.

As a higher education professional, I can say without hesitation that some of my best lessons have been learned from these writers.

James Booker, Tony Brown, Marian Wright Edelman, Lenora Fulani, M. Lee Stanley, James Strong, Bernice Powell Jackson, Eva Doyle, Abdul Allah Muhammad, Tony Best, Manning Marable and the list goes on.

Their opinions vary and at times conflict, however, they and others appear to be maintaining the tradition of David Walker, Ethel Payne, Ida Barnett Wells, Martin Delaney, T. Thomas Fortune, W.E.B. DuBois, Marcus Garvey and many other pioneers.

These writers, along with the staff of over 200 black
(See Hilton, Page 16)

Hank Greenspun School offers scholarships

Applications are now being accepted for scholarships offered through UNLV's Hank Greenspun School of Communication.

More than \$30,000 in scholarships will be awarded to communication and pre-communication majors and to communication graduate students.

To be eligible, students must hold a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Scholarship recipients will be required to register for a minimum of 12 credit hours in the fall 1997 and Spring 1998 semesters.

Graduate students must register for nine credit hours each semester and graduate assistants for six.

Students who register for 12 credit hours in only the fall 1997 semester will be considered for funding. Scholarships are also available for incoming freshmen.

To apply, submit one original and one copy of each of the following documents:

1. A completed Hank

Greenspun School of Communication scholarship application form, available at the school's main office in the Flora Dungan Humanities Building, Room 452.

2. A current UNLV transcript available from the Registrar's Office. Unsealed transcripts will be accepted as they must be copied. Applicants should not request that the registrar send a copy of the transcript. Report cards will not be accepted.

3. A one page, typed, double-spaced statement on the student's academic and professional goals and campus activities.

4. Optional: Supporting materials such as class papers, creative projects or a resume. (No copies needed of video tapes.)

Applications must be received in the Hank Greenspun School of Communication main office by 5 p.m. on March 7.

For more information, contact Dr. Erika Engstrom, scholarship chair, at 895-3639.

National art display at CCSN

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Community College of Southern Nevada Art Gallery will celebrate black history month with "Ethnic Voices - A National Invitational Exhibition." The exhibit runs from Feb. 20 through March 20 with an opening night reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday. This special exhibition of mixed media works will showcase various works of 16 artists from around the country. Media will include painting, drawing, installation art and photography.

The Art Gallery is located on CCSN's Cheyenne campus, 3200 E. Cheyenne Ave., one mile east of I-15 North. The gallery is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Admission is free, and the gallery is wheelchair accessible. For more information, call Kim Fink at 651-4113.

NOW OPEN

North West Communications

CELLULAR • PAGING

♥ SWEET HEART SPECIAL ♥

Sunday Cellular Service — FREE*
Cell Phone — PRE-PAID*
Paging as Low as \$6.95*

Nation Wide and 800#'s available

Now offering Pre-Paid Phone Cards SAVE, SAVE!!!

OFFERING:

• FAXING & COPYING

• BUSINESS CARD DESIGN

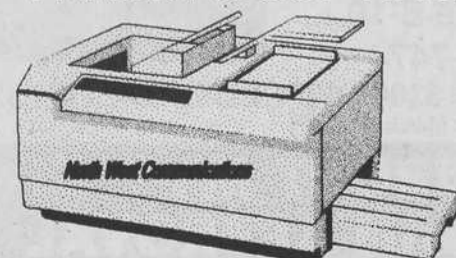
• TYPESETTING

3925 N. Martin L. King, Suite 111
(Hidden Canyon Cntr.)

631-7131

— Gift Certificates Available —

*Some restrictions apply. Special Runs from Jan. 21 thru Feb. 28, 1997



Century 21

Sell-Abraction Realty

Making Buying & Selling Easy and Affordable

SPECIALIZING IN:

No Down Payment Financing, One Dollar Down VA,
New Homes, Low Cost Housing, HUD & More

Michael Mays 281-2097 Business
Realtor 477-1134 Pager