

BUSINESS

Nation's largest employment agency contracts with Ford

Special to Sentinel-Voice

LIVONIA, Mich. — Officials of the nation's largest minority/woman-owned employment agency recently announced the company has inked a major engineering and technical services contract with Ford Motor Company.

Under the agreement with Ford, ACT•1 Technical and ACT•1 Engineering and Managed Services, a division of the California-based ACT•1 Personnel Services, will provide quality engineering and technical services and will manage some of Ford's other contract engineering vendors.

"Our company is best known for its enthusiasm and ability to customize services to meet the specific needs of our individual clients," said Janice Bryant Howroyd, founder and president of ACT•1 Personnel Services. "Our motto of 'pride in performance' is the hallmark of our efforts to provide outstanding customer service."

"When a company makes the critical decision to outsource a key component of its operation, there is no room for guess work," said Dawn Stupar, director of Managed Services at ACT•1 Technical and ACT•1 Engineering and Managed Services. "That's why we make every effort to customize our service to meet our client's needs."

The business is also announced it was expanding its offices, Stupar added. The new offices are located at 38777 Six Mile Road, Suite 202, in Livonia, Stupar said.

ACT•1 Group of Companies (which

includes Personnel Services as well as ACT•1 Technical and ACT•1 Engineering and Managed Services) was founded in 1978 by Howroyd, a Tarboro, N.C.-native who began her company by providing temporary personnel services for the motion picture and television industry.

She later expanded her business to include several major corporations, including AT&T, Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A, Inc., and Southern California Gas Company.

In its nearly 20 years of operation, the privately-held firm has expanded from its headquarters in Torrance, Calif. to 42 branch offices, plus satellite and on-site locations, in the majority of the western United States, Michigan, Tennessee and North Carolina.

With annual sales exceeding \$50 million, ACT•1 Personnel Services has become the largest minority/woman-owned employment agency in the United States.

In addition to employment and contract management, the company also provides the development of orientation, compensation and training packages; the design and administration of consolidated invoicing or integrated billing systems; and performance metrics.

Its custom-designed management report system also provides clients with a detailed overview of how the services are used, which substantiates consistency and creates opportunities for improvement.

For additional information about ACT•1 Technical and ACT•1 Engineering and Managed Services, contact (313) 542-9191.

DOWN TO BUSINESS

Technology provides educational wonderland for black children

*By John William Templeton
Special to Sentinel-Voice*

John "JT" Thompson cares so much about the education of African-American children that for 10 years he commuted 3,000 miles from Philadelphia, and the African-centered home school he and wife Shani Struthers operated, to California.

Why did he have the flexibility to live so far away from his job?

Thompson is the principal engineer of Macromind Director, the world's leading software program for multimedia design of everything from video games to movies to CD-ROMs and television shows. He wrote his own language "Lingo" which provides the commands for the software.

As a practitioner of the Afro-Brazilian martial art of capoeira and student of Black culture, he is clearly dissatisfied that his creation has not been used more to provide wholesome materials for African-American young people.

"With the media influences that are surrounding our young people, it is a wonder that any of them go to school at all," said Thompson during the

"African-Americans in the Digital Age: Learning and Earning on the Internet" conference in San Francisco.

He demonstrated a CD-ROM on Kwanzaa which presented full-motion video of concepts like the Nguzo Saba as an example of the kind of products that can be produced by anyone with a personal computer.

"The great thing about creating a language like Lingo and a program like Macromind Director is that now you don't have to be a programmer to create a video game or a CD-ROM," Thompson said.

Thompson and a dozen other technology superstars spoke quite passionately about the need for a technology-based solution to providing the educational and cultural needs of African-American youth

during the nine-hour session, Jan. 10.

Khafre Om-Ra-Seti, co-author with Timothy Jenkins of "Black Futurists and the Information Age," noted that students who use technology have a transformational experience.

"They not only learn the material better but they also learn skills of manipulating technology which are very useful for their futures," Om-Ra-Seti said.

Two educators demonstrated why technology is the only practical way of catching up with resources.

Lanette Brown, assistant vice president of Sonoma State University, analyzed California academic achievement statistics.

"From 1991 to 1995, the (See Technology, Page 14)

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