

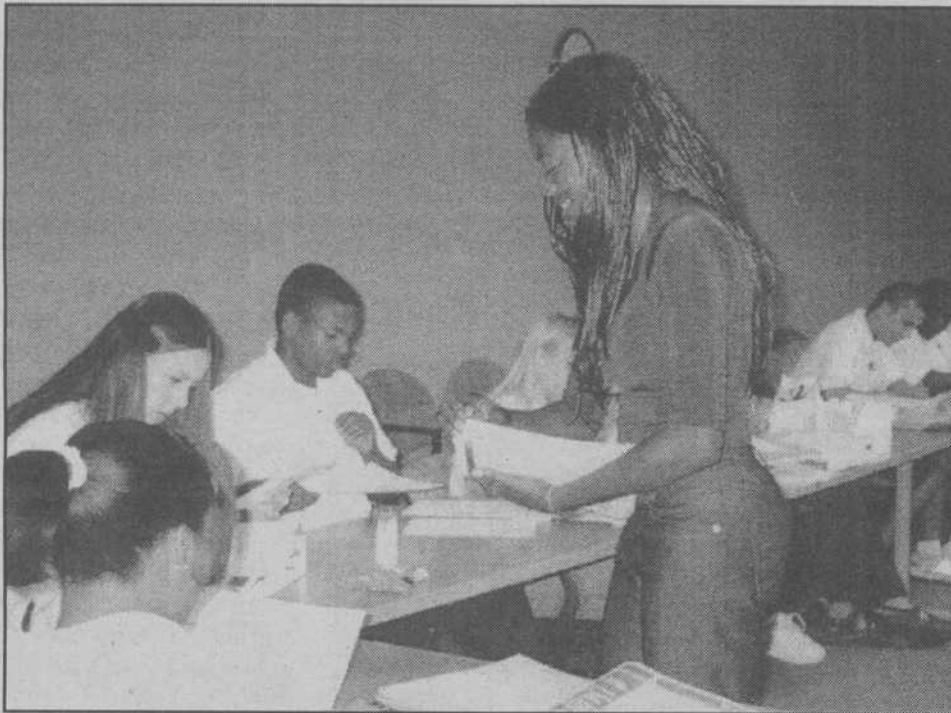
Institute marks 5th year giving youth work experience

*John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice*

A program that helps students gain hands-on experience in the workforce marks its fifth year of operation with 31 students continuing their academic and professional careers beyond high school. The Summer Business Institute (SBI) is a collaboration of the Clark County Business Development Division and local businesses designed to provide internships and weekly seminars for students, who will also gain a sense of responsibility over the summer months.

The program was founded in 1996 and is based on a five-day work schedule, Monday through Friday. The first four days are on-the-job training, with the last day, Friday, scheduled for workshops that enhance what students learned on the job.

"The Summer Business Institute provides internships for both junior and senior high school students which are vital in assisting and providing our young people with the necessary tools to establish and maintain the proper work ethics and discipline



Jackie Jones is one of a multitude of business professionals who mentor students in the county-sponsored Summer Business Institute, now in its fifth year.

required in pursuing a career," said Clark County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates, who personally mentors a student and raises funds for the program. "After all, our young people are our future leaders," she said.

"They get work experience, they get a mentor that

helps them with their career, and workshops taught by professionals for career pathing," said Debbie Conway director of the SBI program. "We've had good feedback from the employers who've kept the students on."

The summer program lasts eight weeks, beginning in mid-June and ending in mid-

August.

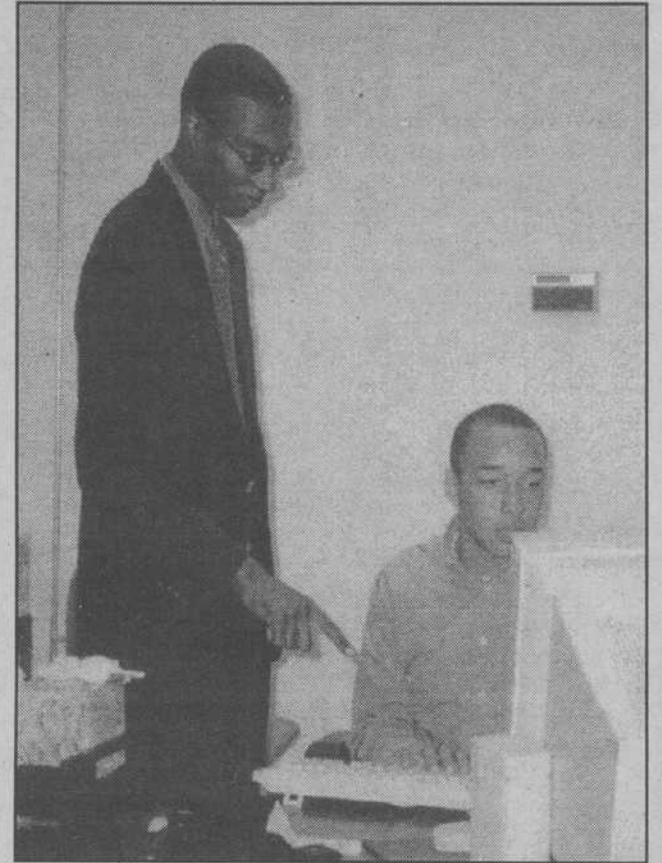
Field trips, computer training, money management, dress for success courses, and community service are just some of the highlights of this educational summer activity, which couples life skills learning and job experience with a paycheck.

"Most are business

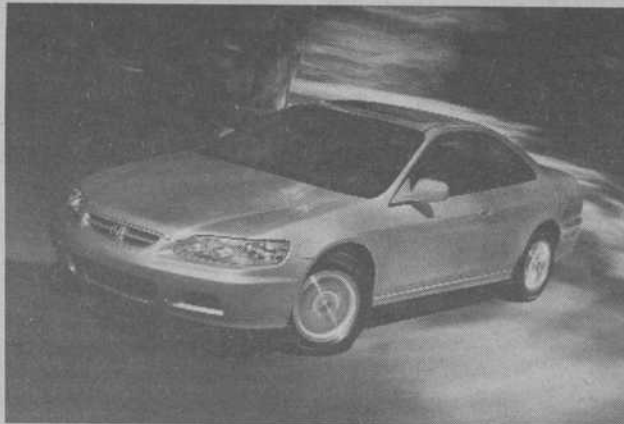
minded," said Conway of the many high school students that have participated in SBI. "About half normally attend college...some still with the companies we placed them with." In the past, the pro-

gram has assisted 25 to 35 youths each year.

"We're striving," Conway said, "to have enough funding to accommodate 50 students in the future."



Lawyer Uri Clinton (left) assists Scott McAbee.



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