

# Student achievement conference attracts 100

By Lés Pierres Streater  
Sentinel-Voice

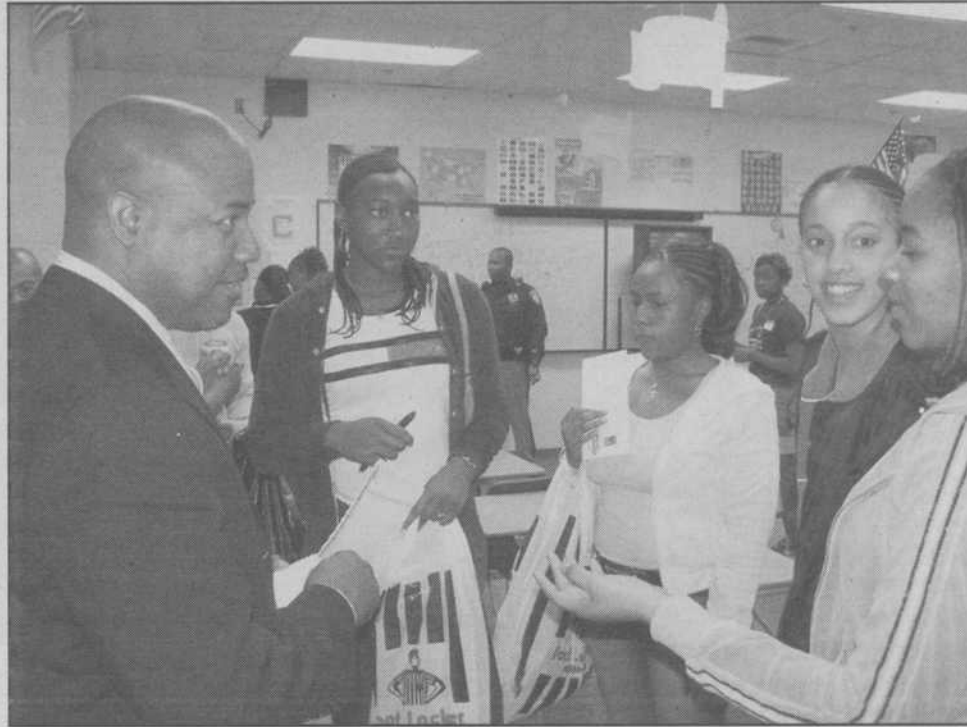
The Eighth Annual Nevada African-American Student Achievement Conference provided more than 100 students with insight into planning for careers ranging from music executive to small business ownership.

In all, 12 career-planning workshops were held during "Encouraging Our Youth" last week at Cheyenne High School. KCEP 88.1 FM, EOB Community Action Partnership, Nevada Broadcasters Association, Nevada Partners, Shack-Finley Honda, Wells Fargo and Ocean Spray sponsored the program.

Guest speaker Greg Akili, assistant to the Speaker of the State Assembly in California, was up close and personal.

Walking throughout the cafeteria, reaching out to the students, Akili said, "I don't need no hook. I'm just here to say that I love you. You have got to know that in your life you are loved. You have got to understand you represent the future. If you don't make it, we don't make it."

"You are loved by people who don't even know you," Akili said. "You are loved by your parents, even though sometimes we have to say 'no' to you, even though we sometimes have to say to you



Attorney Dave Phillips talks to several young attendants at the Eighth Annual Nevada African-American Student Achievement Conference held at Cheyenne High School.

that you got to do this or that and we get on your nerves. But someday you are going to be a parent and one day you are going to wind up loving your children. You're going to want to do things for them. You want to be there for them or you can sit back and accept things as they become. My son is a good drug dealer. My daughter was a great hoochie mama. No parent wants that for their children."

Conference committee members Vanetta Pease and

Ashton Ridley saw success in the day's workshops.

"Overall I think it went well," Pease said. "The speakers for the workshops were excellent. The student numbers weren't as high as we wanted them to be, but we're happy with the turnout. The students got a lot out of what we had to offer."

The conference offered students the opportunity to attend twelve various workshops ranging from Music & the Recording Industry, Culinary Arts, Law and Crimi-

nal Justice, Journalism, Marketing, Accounting-Financial Management Banking & Investment, Business Administration-Small Business Ownership and others. It allowed the students to examine possible obstacles, education, setting career goals and encouragement to strive for excellence.

Dianna Saffold, director of entertainment for the Sen-

tinel-Voice, shared with students a variety of career options for students interested in writing for a newspaper. Saffold said, "beyond hard news and soft news, writing an entertainment column offers an opportunity to be creative, demonstrate flair, charm and wittiness as you interact with personalities in entertainment."

The Law/Criminal Justice workshop offered students various career choices ranging from law enforcement, fire rescue and criminal defense attorney. Students were told these career choices could provide you a substantial income.

Supporting the notion that "A mind is a terrible thing to waste," Marisa McClanahan and Jason Moultrie shared information about Historically Black College and University (HBCU).

Three students gave impressions on attending the conference.

Janae Chester, a junior at Basic High School, said, "I enjoyed the event. It was very helpful to help me choose a career path. I learned that school is important and that we need to continue to further our education."

Sherwin Ferguson, a senior at High School stated, "It was a good experience. I had a lot of fun and learned a lot of stuff about what college can do for you and that a career is more important than just having a job."

Kendra Lawson, a senior at Las Vegas Academy, echoed, "I enjoyed being here today. I learned a lot about business, a major that I will be pursuing in college. I learned about health occupations and what I can do to go forward and become a better student and obtaining my career goal in the medical field."

Lessons were learned by conference organizers for planning.

"Well, we will start sooner, solicit money from sponsors earlier," Pease said.

Ridley said, "Today was actually a good day. I'm actually surprised that kids came out. I'm happy that they did come out after all the hard work that the sponsors and volunteers put together. As you know, this is our eighth annual workshop. Although we were off for the past two years, we were starting over and are now getting back into the groove of things and giving back to the community."

## Missing \$2.1 million in EOB funds remain under scrutiny

Federal auditors on the way to examine agency operations

By Albert C. Jones  
Sentinel-Voice

No decision about cuts in services or layoffs at the Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County will be made until a team of federal auditors compile a report. Board members and several state agencies are examining the books for at least \$2.1 million in unaccounted funds.

"What's going to happen is that the Mid-Iowa Peer-to-Peer Crisis Team will be assembled to give an assessment of the situation," EOB Chair Claude Logan said on Wednesday.

The \$2.1 million was advanced from the state to cover childcare costs. Michael J. Willden, director of the Nevada Department of Human Resources, is working with the EOB board to bring in the crisis team. On Wednesday, Willden confirmed the team could be in Las Vegas as soon as April 4.

How will the EOB repay the \$2.1 million advancement?

"I don't know that yet," Willden said. "It's a problem. My staff is down there now working on a repayment schedule. It was supposed to be repaid at the end of this fiscal year, but those details are being

worked out. They have other sources of income besides grants. The board has been talking about the sale or mortgaging of properties. They have options they are considering."

EOB has a staff of nearly 700 full and part-time employees. Cutting staff is also another option.

Chester Richardson, a board member who traveled to Washington, D.C. earlier this week to meet with members of Nevada's congressional delegation and officials from federal funding sources, refused to return calls made by the Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice.

"The administration we had in place didn't properly understand cost allocation," Richardson told the Review-Journal. It was not clear whether or not Richardson made the junket to Washington at EOB expense. Also not clear is who authorized the trip.

"Senator Reid was not in Washington, D.C. this week," said Shannon Eagan, Reid's deputy press secretary. "He was actually in Las Vegas, so he did not meet with Chester Richardson of the Economic Opportunity Board."

Congresswoman Shelley Berkley's of-

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