

# Engineering

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topics: budgeting, expense management, public relations, fundraising, business image, public speaking, leadership development and using of telecommunications tools and technology. Community involvement and responsibility is a major topic students discussed in their groups.

Wilonda Quinn, the conference planning chair and a junior at UNLV, spoke about the purpose of the conference.

She stated, "Our goal is to have everyone attending this conference leave with a better sense of leadership development, helping chapter officers sharpen their skills in managing their respective chapters, and learning to utilize soft skills, such as effective communications, working as a team and how to manage conflict resolutions."

About the local chapter, Quinn said, "Our membership consists of individuals who are enrolled in the engineering fields, along with others who are pursuing other areas of their education. We are open to students wanting to make a difference with their life and giving back to the community. Our organization teaches individuals to network to build their capacity, relationships and career opportunities."

Dwayne Allen, the National Alumni chairperson and Region 6 advisor for NSBE, conducted a workshop for the students to teach them how to plan, develop and execute a successful project.

Quinn said the average salary depending on the specific field. She said salaries range roughly from about \$47,000 to \$53,000 for entry-level engineers.

Overall, the profession is a lucrative career field with a lot of room for advancement.

One of the NSBE panel discussions addressed a recent study, "The State of Black Los Angeles," which was prepared by the United Way and the Urban League of Los Angeles. The study listed several problems for African-American students:

- Nearly half of Black Los Angeles High School students don't graduate within four years;

- The median household income for Blacks is more than \$20,000 below that of White families;

- The 14 percent unemployment rate for Blacks is more than double that for

Whites and Asians;

- At the 4th-grade level, 75 percent of Black children cannot read proficiently (83 percent by the 11th grade);

- Blacks have the highest overall death rate, with deaths from homicide and HIV/AIDS more than three times higher than other groups; and

- Of the Black males born in 2001, 32 percent would end up in prison.

These statistics strongly emphasize the need to educate our children and provide them an alternative to defeat the grim outlook. NSBE is committed to improving the living conditions for children of Los Angeles and throughout the country.

Allen said, "We need more Black engineers, and we need to show our Black youth that there are people doing the right thing, and not the images on television that discredits our race. We have successful individuals in all walks of life who work hard everyday to make a difference. Our children need to know that they, too, are capable of being successful."

Quinn said, "One of the projects that the local chapter has been involved in over the past year is a mentoring and tutoring program at West Middle School in the city's Historic Westside area. This will continue throughout the upcoming school year as we seek to motivate more young African-American students to consider seeking a career as a Black engineer."

She added, "Our outreach effort affords us the opportunity to have UNLV students going on the school campus and exposing younger students to successful individuals pursuing their academic growth and development and being role models for them to strive to achieve."

In addition, Quinn said, "We have 40 members of our local chapter that are involved in fundraising activities, being a support group for one another."

In the coming year, the local chapter looks forward to establishing a pre-college chapter that will be marketed to high school students to seek a career in engineering, according to Quinn.

One of the workshops was about the upcoming national Walk for Education on October 22. Chapter members throughout the country will walk door to door, in predominately African-American communities passing out information about higher education and encouraging

young students to consider studying for a career in engineering. This will precede Academic Excellence Month recognized in November, encouraging all students to be successful.

Allen said, "Our Walk for Education is designed to show the country that there are Black professionals out there working to make a difference for our community and encouraging more young people to continue their higher education pursuits and career development."

Another workshop focused on personal develop-

ment skills.

"Laughter is Good for You" was presented by Atlanta-based motivational speaker Keith Harrell who said, "A positive attitude is your most priceless possession. To a great extent, it determines the overall quality of your life."

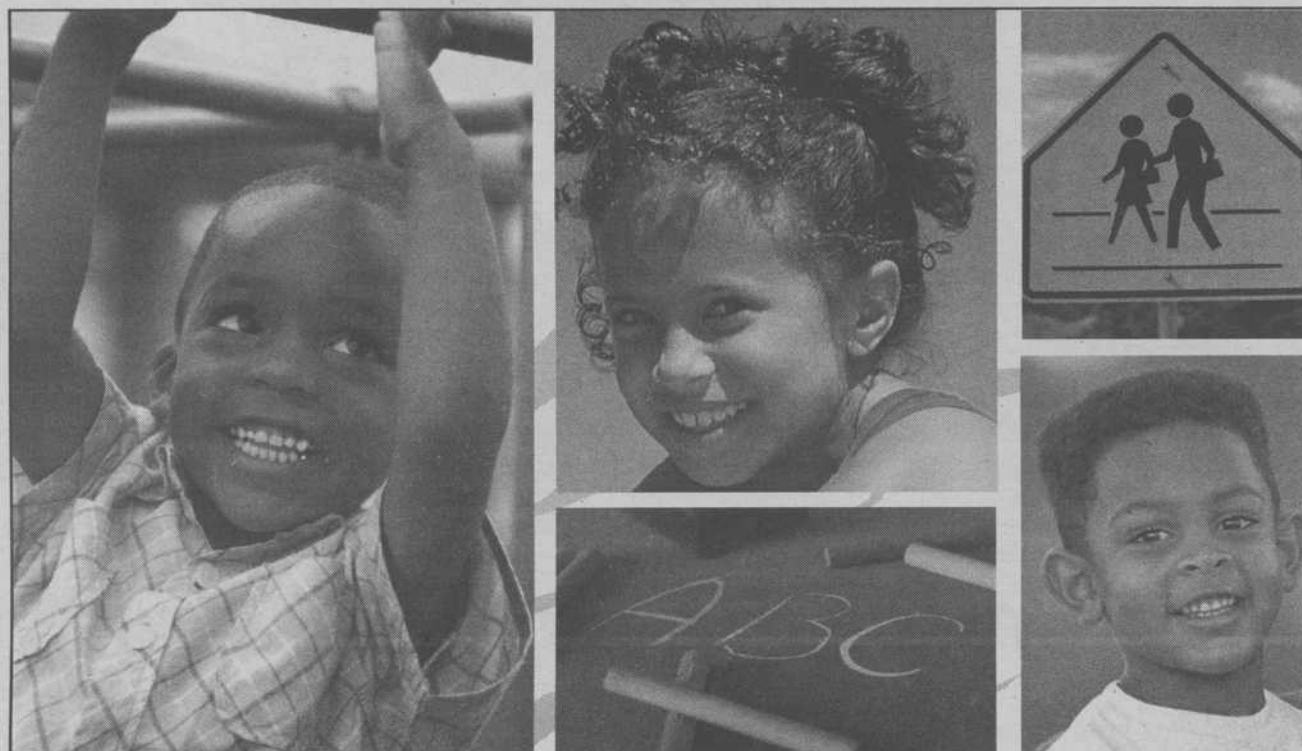
He promised students these six techniques would "infuse your life with laughter" for personal and business success:

He recommended students use these steps, "(1) Surround yourself with funny folks. Everybody

needs at least one friend who, when all else fails, makes them howl; (2) Go on a laughter hunt. Search your everyday life for bits of joy. Read the comics, not just the newspaper; (3) Turn your downtime into fun time. Watch a sitcom or variety show instead of a drama; (4) Be a clown. Take every (reasonable) opportunity to lighten up and act silly; (5) Force it. The next time you're about to cringe, shout or groan out of embarrassment or frustration, force yourself to laugh; and (6) Don't hold back. Just let'er rip!"

Other speakers and facilitators at the conference included: Clark G. McCarrell Jr., M.S.M.E. Nevada Power; Kristi Rodriguez, Interim Director of Undergraduates at UNLV; Mark McKekvin, Ph.D. candidate, Electrical Engineering at the University of California Berkeley; and Tiffany Small, a MBA candidate at the Krannert School of Management at Purdue University.

For more information about the engineering students' programs, the organization's website is [www.nsbe.org](http://www.nsbe.org).



## A healthy start for a healthy school year!

Children entering the Nevada school system for the first time require appropriate immunizations. Newer requirements include: hepatitis A, hepatitis B and chicken pox vaccination (if they have never had the chicken pox disease).

**Back-to-school immunization extended clinic hours:**  
**Ravenholt Public Health Center • 625 Shadow Lane**  
**Monday, Aug. 22-Friday, Sept. 9 • 8 a.m.-6 p.m.\***

**Other clinic locations:**  
**East Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson**  
**Monday-Friday • 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**

An administrative fee of \$16 for one shot or \$20 for two or more per patient will be charged. Medicaid and Nevada Check Up are accepted.

Please bring your insurance card, along with shot records.

All necessary paperwork is located on the health district's website ([www.cchd.org](http://www.cchd.org)). Bring completed forms to expedite your visit.

\*No other health district services will be available after 4:30 p.m.

**For clinic locations, hours and dates, call 383-1351.**

CLARK COUNTY  
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