

Beauty school grows by leaps

By Tasha Pope
Sentinel-Voice

The groundbreaking for Expertise Cosmetology Institute, Nevada's first Black-owned cosmetology school, took place last month at 1911 Stella Lake St. in Enterprise Park near Martin Luther King and Lake Mead boulevards in the city's historic Westside.

"I feel great. God is good and we're blessed to be here on the grounds of the cosmetology institute," Gwen Braimoh said.

Braimoh, founder and executive director of the Expertise School of Beauty, is very excited about the school's future location, new name and expansion into the new institute.

In comparison to the school's current location in Nucleus Plaza on the east side along "H" street at West Owens, the institute will be nearly double the size, from 6,100 to 11,000 square-feet.

The city of Las Vegas is donating the one-acre land site needed for the building.

"I'm very excited about this project. I'm happy for Gwen [Braimoh] and the Expertise family," Ward 5 Councilman Lawrence Weekly said.

Enterprise Park, which is a 75-acre mixed business-park, has been established



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Gwen Braimoh, founder of the Expertise Cosmetology Institute, speaks during last month's groundbreaking.

since 1995. It currently includes private and governmental buildings, and Weekly said "[the businesses] have had a positive impact on the community."

With the new expansion and move, Expertise will be licensed by the Nevada State Board of cosmetology as a

training institute. This will give them the option to offer financial aid for students who qualify.

The school's students provide hair care, nail care and other cosmetology services to the public for a reduced rate and under the guidance of instructors. Currently, stu-

dent enrollment is 42 and they have rotating graduations. With the additional space, the staff and student population will increase, which will allow the school to extend their hours, according to Braimoh.

"We're going to be offering evening classes [once the new school opens]," Braimoh said.

"[The staff] will double from ten to twenty [faculty members]," she said, adding, "Our goal is to triple our enrollment to about 120 participants."

In addition to cosmetology, hair design and manicurist instruction, Expertise will offer other curriculum choices for students.

"Here at the new facility, we're offering a new skin care program called esthetician and a teacher training program that will train cosmetologist to become instructors," Braimoh explained.

In addition to the institute, Enterprise Park's new tenants will include a job training facility, the Urban Chamber of Commerce, and a major, yet unnamed, grocery store anchor being sought to attract customers to the park.

The new building to house the Expertise Institute is scheduled to open the second week in May.

School programs honor successes

By Chelsi N. Cheatom
Sentinel-Voice

The annual TRIO/Gear Up Day was held in the Rio Hotel Casino Pavilion Saturday. The event was a chance for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas-based educational programs to honor individuals who excelled in the programs over the past year and to thank program supporters. This year, 13 current and past program participants were honored for their excellent achievement in the TRIO group of programs.

TRIO was originally a group of three programs which included, Upward Bound which is an academic enrichment program, and Educational Talent Search. It has now expanded to include a total of nine programs, including Gear Up, a sixth through 12th grade tutoring program, as well as the Ronald E. McNair post-baccalaureate scholarship program — one of only a few programs in the nation with a mission to prepare minority students for post-graduate doctoral programs.

TRIO/Gear Up are both programs under the Center for Academic and Educational Outreach or CAEO umbrella. The center is based in UNLV's Student Support Services Building and primarily assists students from low-income, first-generation and disadvantaged populations. The mission of CAEO is to provide traditional and innovative educational opportunities to a diverse community through targeted services and research that promote personal success.

County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates serves as deputy executive director for marketing and communications for CAEO. She explained the idea behind the ceremony.

"This is our opportunity to recognize individuals that were either former Gear Up or TRIO participants who achieved a lot... Our goal is to make sure we get kids in school, keep them in school and to make sure they go on to college and achieve their personal dreams..." She added, "Our goals are primarily focused on education and helping individuals to attain their dreams of becoming successful and also getting an education."

Atkinson Gates, a Student Support Services alumna, (See Trio, Page 5)

Smiley, panelists discuss Black America

HOUSTON, TX — A crowd of more than five thousand filled the St. Agnes Church here Saturday at the 2006 State of the Black Union. The event was a historic first step toward setting a social, economic and political agenda for African-Americans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and as a prelude to the 2008 presidential elections. The event was broadcast live on C-SPAN.

Broadcaster Tavis Smiley and journalist Michel Martin moderated three panel discussions centered on the newly released book, "Covenant with Black America," at the seventh annual symposium.

Saturday's symposium featured 35 of Black America's sharpest minds and most powerful voices weighing in on topics ranging from healthcare to housing, from crime to criminal justice, from education to economic parity.

Smiley announced a major political development, "We are pleased to announce today that the major political parties have agreed to ensure that all candidates seeking their respective party's presidential nomination will address the issues outlined in The Covenant."

Ken Mehlman, Chairman

of the RNC writes:

"Until both parties compete hard for the [African-American] votes, the community is not well served...we have more work to do...Republicans have not always done our best to listen, learn and share our ideas. While I have not decided whether to seek reelection beyond my term as Chairman in January 2007, and the Republican National Committee has not organized candidate forums in the past, I am committed to ensure that our 2008 Republican presidential candidates forthrightly address issues of importance to the African American community."

Governor Howard Dean, Chairman of the DNC writes:

"We are very proud of the support that the Democratic Party receives from the African-American community, and are committed to working hard everyday to continue to earn that support."

We would, therefore, be happy to sanction a debate that focuses specifically on issues of concern to the African-American community. Thank you again for the invitation, and thank you for the work you are doing to ensure that these issues remain at the forefront of the national debate."

(See Smiley, Page 4)

Hip Hop

(Continued from Page 2)

bunch of people," Clemente said. All it takes is a critical mass. Activists pointed out that audience members at the lecture showed that political awareness in Las Vegas' hip hop community already exists.

"For you guys to be here, very young and multi-racial, that's what they don't want," Clemente said. "You all are already beginning the movement. But it has to continue to build."

For more information about the LV-LOC, contact Hale at (702) 413-5118 or email at Andreas_Hale13@yahoo.com.



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