

SBI

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a job—and to do it as early in life as possible.

She said, “A job does not offer you a future because if you lose that job, it may be difficult finding another one that pays you the same. With a degree, you can establish a career with potential growth and insurance for rainy days; with a job, you can only hope for one. So, while you’re young, go out and get your degree, because as you get older and stuck at a job that’s draining you, you can’t advance because you don’t have a degree, or exercise other options that would have been available to you if you went on to obtain your degree at an earlier age.”

Certificates of completion and backpacks were given to each of the students participating in the program. Several students were awarded scholarships: \$1,500 to Krishell Gaines; \$500 each to Tatiana Nino, Stephen Selby, Vina Pulido, Taylor Knuth and Joe Maludo; \$250 each to Deshawn Allen, Katrina Atienza, Gina Cassaro, Edwin Castillo, Claire Chu, Natasha Dua, Cecelia Equipia, George Garcia, Michail Getsov, Andrew Green, Alex Hale, Caroline O’Donnell, Katie Rice, Benjamin Rodriguez, Katie Sayles, Susan Schultz, Jade Smith, Faustina Tran, Laneisha Williams, and \$100 to Assata Smith.

Three students, two mentors, a parent and a representative from one of the ongoing funders of the program shared their perspectives about the program.

Stephanie Hunter, a junior at Arbor View High School stated: “The Summer Business Institute was a great experience for me. It helped me to better understand my field of Social Service and how it works because I want to become a Social Worker. When I finish high school, I plan on attending Howard University.”

Tyron Thompson, a Clark County Social Service Manager and Stephanie’s mentor,

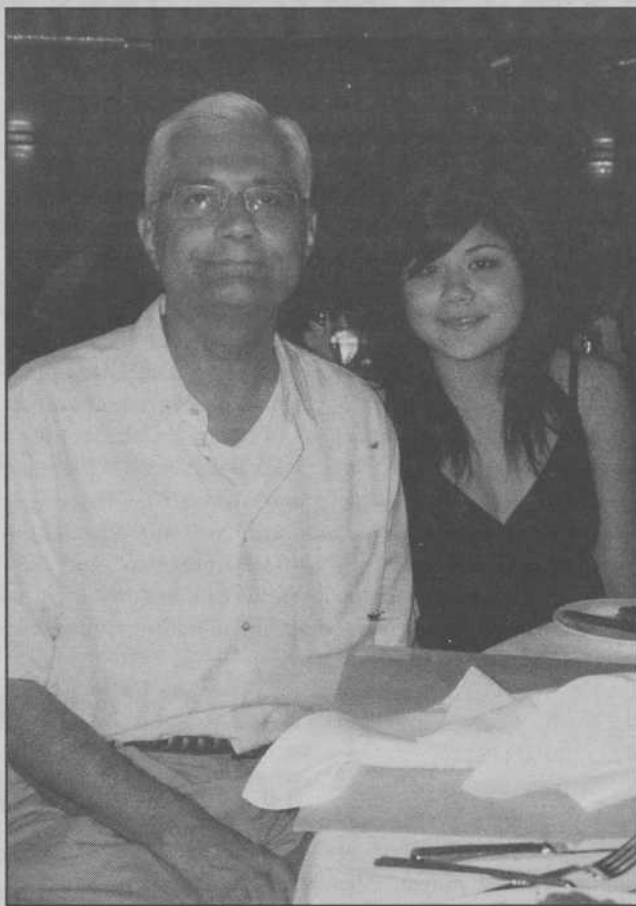
Nagin

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250,000. Nagin suggested that Louisiana and federal officials would prefer the city remain smaller.

He said the city is struggling to deliver services and rebuild with a quarter of its former municipal budget. The federal and state aid the city has received is inadequate and comes with too many rules, he said.

“We are being strangled, and they’re using the money to set local policies to try to



Sentinel-Voice photo by Les Pierres Streater
Haron Ahmed and his daughter, Yasmina. The Valley High senior wants to either be a surgeon or a biomedical engineer.

said, “This is my sixth year participating as a mentor in the program, and I must say that Stephanie’s middle name is ‘ambitious.’ She kept me on target of being a good mentor to her. She has drive, never sitting idle at her desk. She was exposed to homeless people, and people suffering from AIDS and how they lived. It was a pleasure working with her.”

Capone Austin, a senior at Cheyenne High School who plans to attend Arizona State University, said, “This was my second year participating in the Summer Business Institute, and for the last two years I worked with my mentor Melvin Ennis at the Cambridge Community Center. Our work provides a gang intervention program that promotes solutions for at-risk individuals ages 16 to 24, giving them an alternative to gangs, drugs, and encouraging them to get an education.”

Austin’s mentor Ennis commented: “This is a type of program that allows the students to create resources, network, and be exposed to

a business setting because most of our students don’t get an opportunity to do so. I have been a part of this program since its inception.”

Yasmina Ahmed, a senior at Valley High School stated, “For me, SBI has helped me to access what I want to do with my future. I used to think that I wanted to be a cardio-thoracic vascular surgeon, and after working in a hospital environment I now know that I want to help others either as a surgeon or biomedical engineer.”

Her father, Haron Ahmed said, “I was very excited about her participating in the program and gaining some practical work experience.”

Flossie Christensen, Vice Human Resource Director for BankWest of Nevada (now known as Bank of Nevada) said, “I’ve been participating in the program ...as one of the founding organizers, and I find the caliber of the students to be excellent. I have placed students in our IT department, customer service, working behind the teller lines and helping all over.

take control of the city to do things that they had in mind all along, and that’s to shrink the footprint, get a bunch of developers in the city, and try to do things in a different way,” Nagin said.

“We’re not going to let that happen. They’re going to give us our money, and we’re going to rebuild this city.”

Early this year the mayor called on fellow Blacks to make New Orleans a “chocolate” city again, but he later apologized.

“Our company realized that these individuals are our future leaders and we see a responsibility of giving back to the community. This is very important to us as a business and an investment well spent,” she added.

The program’s longtime coordinator Conway may change from running the program to serving as a business mentor. She was asked to comment on her run for Clark County Recorder and placing first on the Democratic slate in the recent primary race, and what impact a win would have regarding her future involvement in the SBI program.

“I think that my plate will be full, but I do plan on remaining active with the program. If I win the upcoming election, I will have the opportunity to have a student work directly in my office.”

Conway summarized her years of experience with the SBI and its interns: “This has been so exhilarating because it has taken my life to another level. Just seeing the young people as they have gone through the institute and then on to college has been gratifying. These young people have grown up and matured, now leading towards a fuller and successful future.”

Sharpton: Thug life hurts Blacks

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Many Black youths fall under a spell of “gangster mentality,” preventing them from becoming leaders and making a positive impact in politics, the Rev. Al Sharpton said.

The civil rights activist faulted Hollywood and the record industry for making “gangsterism” seem cool and acceptable.

“We have got to get out of this gangster mentality, acting as if gangsterism and Blackness are synonymous,” Sharpton said Thursday at the annual conference of the National Association of Black Journalists.

“I think we’ve allowed a whole generation of young people to feel that if they’re focused, they’re not Black enough. If they speak well and act well, they’re acting White, and there’s nothing more racist than that.”

The key to leadership is taking the initiative to change things, said Sharpton. He said his National Action Network is just one group willing to help young Black leaders get into politics.

“Nobody broke in my house in Brooklyn and dragged me out of the projects and made me a leader, I wanted to do that. Clearly, we would work with young people who want to do the work,” he said.

Lottie Shackelford, vice chair of the Democratic National Committee, said during the same panel discussion that the time is ripe for getting more young Black people involved. “So many young folks are waiting to be asked, or they say they want others to move so they can gain a slot, and I say there’s room for everybody. Let’s work together,” she said.

Sharpton, who competed in several Democratic primaries during a 2004 presidential bid, said he might run again in 2008 but will decide after this November’s elections.

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