

# Jefferson students complete job finding workshop

Through the combined efforts of the Urban League, Regional Youth Employment Council of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, the City of Portland, and Portland Public Schools, 19 graduating seniors at Jefferson High School have completed an intense job finding workshop and are ready to go to work.

They have completed 15 after-school workshops, called Jobs for Jefferson Graduates, as a pilot program of the Portland Urban Network Project. George Rankins of the Urban League was lead instructor, assisted by Joseph Hall of the N.E. Youth Service Center.

The ongoing Urban Network Project is joint venture of the Portland School District, City of Portland, Regional Youth Employment Council, and Urban League to increase the employability of youth. The job search workshop, one of several network Project activities, will be expanded at Jefferson next year and at other Portland high schools in the future.

During the week of June 4th, the workshop participants will be hosted at several downtown businesses for their final sessions. On June 6th, they will practice interview techniques and learn what employers are really looking for.

Information for the June 6th session has been gathered from a national research project on employer hiring decisions.

In this study, conducted at the National Center for Research in Vocational Education (NCRVE) at Ohio State University, employers indicated that displaying a "bad attitude" in an interview setting reduced the likelihood that a person would be hired by as much as 90 percent, and that the use of "inappropriate language" in an interview reduced the likelihood of being hired by as much as 70 percent. Another important finding was that perceived negative behavior in a job interview can severely and negatively affect how the employer evaluates the applicant's education, training and work experience.

Richard Miguel, senior research associate with NCRVE, will illustrate these and other findings about employer hiring decisions with videotaped interviews and discussions with the Jefferson graduates on June 6th.

After the final workshop session on June 7th, the youth will be ready for employment. Portland employers who would like to interview these youth for jobs are asked to contact Tom Nelson or Wendy Osbourn of the Regional Youth Employment Council, 287-5627.

## Jobs for Jefferson Graduates

This program is designed to assist youth in career planning, job finding, and overall work maturity. Successful completion and cer-

tification by the program means that the student is able to:

1. Make a realistic career choice based on local labor market needs and personal abilities;
2. Deal effectively with personal problems that could infringe on employment;
3. Know how to job search, interview, and obtain employment;
4. Successfully maintain employment beyond an employer's probationary period.

A series of 15 workshops are offered after school at Jefferson High School from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, beginning May 1st, for five weeks. The workshops are being conducted as a pilot project for 20 graduating seniors who have indicated they are ready for immediate full-time employment. Lead instructor is George Rankins from the Urban League.

Students who choose to participate are asked to attend all workshops, arrive on time, use time effectively during the workshops, and acceptably perform job-related competencies.

Upon successful completion of the workshops, each participant will initiate a job search, which will be supported by job interviews with employers who have agreed to give special consideration to the Jefferson graduates of this program. The Urban League, its Northeast Youth Service Center, and the Regional Youth Employment Council will be a resource to students during their job search.

## Sponsors of this Activity

Jobs for Jefferson Graduates is an activity of the Portland Urban Network Project, a joint venture of the Portland School District, City of Portland, Urban League, and Regional Youth Employment Council of the Chamber of Commerce. The Network Project's short-range goal is to bring the resources of business, the City, the Urban League and other community-based youth services (including publicly-funded youth employment programs) to bear on the Portland School District's efforts to increase the preparation of in-school youth for future employment.

Pilot activities are planned at Ockley Green Middle School and Jefferson High School to demonstrate ways to increase the abilities of youth to get and keep jobs after graduation. This workshop series is one such pilot activity.

The long-range goal of the Network Project is essential to economic development—to



READY FOR WORK: Jefferson graduates (l-r front row) Symria "Jeannie" Brown, Cynthia Preston, Kim Rickert, Letta Richardson, Iris Holliday; (middle row) Richard Williams, Michael

Perez, Melissa Woods; (back row) Paul Allen, Patrick William and Brett Hinsley.

establish an ongoing network of agencies and organizations that exercise conscious leadership in seeing that Portland youth are well-prepared for the workforce and are successful at gaining employment.



CAPT. HUGH L. MULZAC

## First Black ship master joins Maritime Hall of Fame

Capt. Hugh L. Mulzac, the first Black to earn a ship master's license and command a vessel in the modern American merchant marine, has been selected as a 1984 inductee to the National Maritime Hall of Fame.

Established in 1982, the Hall of Fame is the only gallery in the nation dedicated to commemorating the contributions to America's maritime heritage by individual people and ships. The Hall is located in the American Merchant Marine Museum on the campus of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y.

Mulzac and eight other people and ships were inducted at the Hall of Fame in a ceremony on May 19th.

Born on the small island of Union in the Caribbean in 1886, Mulzac traveled to the United States and became a citizen in 1918. He had served as a merchant marine deck officer during World War I. Soon afterwards, he sat for his ship master's license and earned it with a near perfect score.

In 1920, Mulzac was asked to share command of the old coastal steamer Yarmouth for the newly organized, Black-owned and operated Black Star Line. Though technically not the vessel's master, he helped command the ship for two coastal trips before the company failed.

Between 1922 and 1940, Mulzac was forced to work as a cook and steward aboard merchant ships, despite holding a master's license. No company would give a Black man command of a ship, or even hire a Black as a deck officer.

However, during World War II,

Mulzac's prospects improved. With the help of two maritime labor organizations, the National Maritime Union and the International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots, Mulzac was given a berth as captain on the Liberty ship Booker T. Washington.

The Booker T., under a program favored by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was given an integrated crew. Mulzac commanded the vessel for five years, during which time it made 22 round trips from American ports, transported 18,000 troops to Europe and the Pacific, and shot down two enemy planes without a loss of crew or cargo.

A slight man with a scholarly appearance and the demeanor of a professor, Mulzac nonetheless was a strict disciplinarian aboard ship. "He's all captain," said one Booker T. crew member. "He is strict as hell on ship safety and things like that."

When not at sea, Mulzac resided in Queens, N.Y. He retired from the mariner's trade to the West Indies for a time, but returned to live in Westbury, Long Island, N.Y., before his death in February 1971.

Mulzac wrote an autobiography, "A Star to Steer By." In 1969, he was honored by the New York Chapter of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History "for bringing honor and hope to Black seamen."

Visitors are welcome at the maritime Hall of Fame and the American Merchant Marine Museum. Operating hours are 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The Museum is closed on federal holidays and during the month of July.

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