

Rising Dropout Rates

Minority youth are dropping out of high school at disproportionately high rates across the country. While the dropout rate for white students is approximately 20 percent nationally, the rate for Black students is estimated at 35 percent nationally, and reaches 50 percent in urban areas like New York City. For Latinos and Native Americans, the picture is even grimmer. Forty-five percent of Latino students and 48 percent of Native Americans nationally never graduate from high school—nearly double the dropout rate for Black students and three times the rate of white students. In urban high schools, the dropout rates soar as high as 85 percent for Native Americans and ranges from 70 to 80 percent for Puerto Ricans.

The consequences of dropping out, particularly for minority students, are grave. Statistics indicate that high school dropouts join the ranks of the jobless, impoverished and imprisoned at disproportionately high rates. For many, dropping out insures lifetime membership in American's "under-class." For example:

- The unemployment rate for minority youth dropouts is as high as 65 percent.
- High school dropouts earn about one third less than those who graduate. Sixty-four percent of Black females and 69 percent of Black males living below the poverty line never completed high school.
- Only 14 percent of males and three percent of females who landed jobs after leaving school in 1980 worked in skilled positions. The majority worked as restaurant workers, clerks, factory workers, gas station attendants, etc.
- In 1978, the inmates in local jails were high school dropouts (59 percent of whites and 63 percent of Blacks), according to Department of Justice statistics.

High minority dropout rates indicate a widespread failure in American public schools to educate minority youth. According to a report by the Center for Third World Organizing's Alternative Policy Institute, the reasons for this failure include the unequal distribution of resources to inner-city, minority schools, the implementation of practices such as tracking and competency testing in ways which discriminate against minorities, and new "excellence" reforms which raise standards without simultaneously increasing support for at-risk students.

Black Colleges Face Extinction

The nation's 105 Black colleges have continuously played a crucial role in making higher education accessible to the Black community. Although they enroll just 16 percent of Blacks entering college, they graduate 37 percent of all the Black students who finish college, primarily as a result of their better support and counseling services.

Increasing difficulties have beset Black colleges in recent years. A declining national student pool coupled with growing competition from predominantly white institutions have pushed the colleges into dire financial straits.

Black colleges are also facing legal efforts to "diversify" the racial composition of their students, or, as Charles Whitaker, associate editor of Ebony Magazine, describes it, to "whiten [them] up." Tennessee State University (TSU), for example, is contending with a 1984 federal court settlement requiring the school to achieve a goal of 50 percent white enrollment. Students at TSU are protesting in opposition to what they see as an effort by whites to wipe out historically Black colleges. Greg Carr, president of TSU's student Government Association, describes the situation this way: "First they bring in white administrators, then they bring in more white students, then they raise admission standards and the tuition. Before you know it, what was a Black school is gone."

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SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 1987
THE HILTON HOTEL

Silent Auction: 4:30

Dinner: 6:00

Oral Auction: 7:00

AUCTIONEER: DARCELLE XV

MUSIC BY: THE GRAHAM CRACKERS

DONATION: \$20/person

(Tax deductible - includes wine with dinner)

FURTHER INFORMATION: 284-5532



AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Federal Employees Of The Year

by POI Thomas Hatch, Navy Recruiting Dist., Portland.

"Totally shocked . . . but honored and overjoyed" was the reaction by Navy Petty Officer First Class Jimi M. Henderson on his recent selection as Portland's 1987 Federal Employee of the Year in the Military Category.

Petty Officer Henderson was among six federal employees from Oregon and Washington who were named winners of Federal Employee of the Year awards by the Portland Federal Executive Board for outstanding job performance and community service.

A Navy Career Counselor assigned to Navy Recruiting District, Portland, Petty Officer Henderson, is the Recruiter-in-Charge of the downtown recruiting station, located at 321 S.W. Salmon St.

"I admit that I was surprised when I found out I was nominated in the first place," related Henderson, "considering all the Navy talent that is assigned to the Portland area, so you can imagine my disbelief when I was actually selected. It was highly competitive and the three officers competing with me were exceptionally sharp."

In winning the military award, Petty Officer Henderson was picked over an Air Force Lieutenant Colonel assigned to the Portland Air National Guard, an Army Major attached to the Corps of Engineers, and a Coast Guard Lieutenant.

Petty Officer Henderson feels proud, and rightly so, about this award. "I've received letters of appreciation before from civilian groups when I was recruiting down in Culver City, Calif.," he said. "I even got a few from state congressmen...but I must say that I hold this latest award in the highest esteem."

Petty Officer Henderson has become somewhat of a celebrity as a result of his award. Not only is he acknowledged by passers-by, but he was invited to speak to youths at a local recreation center, and he will be interviewed in an upcoming local TV talk show. He doesn't seem to mind the limelight, since his sudden fame also gives a big boost to his main job—Navy Recruiting—by increased Navy awareness in the local area.

"My office has experienced an increase in walk-ins because of the publicity generated by the award," Henderson stated. "On a few occasions, I had to refer some young prospects to Navy Recruiting Stations in their local areas because we couldn't process them in the Portland station. They said they saw my picture in the paper and they wanted to talk to me about Navy opportunities."

Although Petty Officer Henderson was surprised at his selection, his work performance and community involvement put him right out front in the competition.

Not only has he received numerous awards for meeting or surpassing Navy recruiting goals, but was cited as the number one First Class Petty Officer of 59 recently evaluated at Navy Recruiting District, Portland.

Highly active in the local community, Petty Officer Henderson was a member of the United Negro College Fund Drive last December and currently serves as a Navy-certified drug and alcohol counselor for the Boy Scouts of America. He also participates in church drug seminars and is a member of "Youth Hot Line" with two local Portland churches.

The Navy recruiter, originally from Los Angeles, Calif., entered the Navy



Wife Robin beams with pride as NC1 Jimi Henderson displays his awards for being selected as Portland's Federal Employee of the Year (Military). Photo by PH2 C. Meeks. USN

in June 1973 and is an ex-Navy Hospital Corpsman and Boatswain's Mate. He was designated a Navy Counselor in June 1986 and is on the Navy's Career Recruiter Force. Petty Officer Henderson is married to the former Robin Wilson of Portland. They have three children—Michella (8), and five-year-old twins Jimi II and daughter Sparkle.

Congratulations Class of '87

Your key to college?

Awards available for minority students

You may be eligible for a waiver of tuition and fees to any of Oregon's eight public, four-year colleges and universities.

The State Board of Higher Education recently approved making annual awards to 146 first-time freshmen.

The awards will be available to selected Oregon Blacks, Hispanics and Native-Americans who meet regular admission standards.

The awards

The awards will waive tuition and fees, worth about \$1,500 a year.

The awards are renewable for a total of five years to students who maintain a 2.0 college GPA, earn at least 36 credit hours annually, and make satisfactory progress toward a degree. Over a five-year period, each award is worth more than \$7,500.

Who is eligible?

For Fall 1987, 146 awards will be available to eligible Blacks, Hispanics and Native-Americans. Students from these minority groups are eligible if they meet the campus's normal admission standards.

Which campuses?

The awards are available for the eight campuses in the Oregon State System of Higher Education. The campuses are:

- Oregon State University, Corvallis;
- Portland State University;
- University of Oregon, Eugene;
- Eastern Oregon State College, La Grande;
- Southern Oregon State College, Ashland;
- Western Oregon State College, Monmouth;
- Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Falls;
- Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland (for nursing, dental hygiene and medical technology students entering at sophomores).

Oregon: A quality choice

Oregon's state colleges and universities offer excellence in scores of disciplines, ranging from accounting and anthropology to urban affairs and zoology.

Their national leadership is documented in fields of study as diverse as Architecture, Business, Education, Engineering, Forestry, Journalism, Music, Neuroscience, Oceanography, Surveying.

The campuses themselves range from a large university in metropolitan Portland to small colleges in peaceful, non-urban areas, with plenty of exciting opportunities in between.

Even as freshmen, students have a chance to study with professors who discovered some of the knowledge they will be learning. Each campus offers unique opportunities for learning, discovering and preparing for a successful future.

Why this award?

The 146 awards were approved (1) to encourage Oregon's minority high school students to do the hard work of preparing for college, (2) to increase the numbers of fully qualified minority students on Oregon's campuses, and (3) to broaden the cultural diversity for all students. Minority students selected to receive the awards will be asked to help the campuses improve services and support for minority students as well as meeting with middle school and high school minority students to talk about college.

How do I apply?

Applications are available from counselors at your high school, from the Admissions Office on the campus where you want to enroll, or by writing Office of Academic Affairs, P.O. Box 3175, Eugene, Ore. 97403. Applications should be mailed by June 19, although those mailed after that date will be considered if awards still are available.