

Mrs. Frances Schoen-Newspaper Room
University of Oregon Libr
Eugene, Oregon
97403

PORTLAND OBSERVER 25¢

Volume XXI, Number 32

"The Eyes and Ears of The Community"

August 7, 1991

Drew-Johnson Medical Education Project Launched

by Portland Observer Staff



He has designed and implemented a project that incorporates ideas he could only dream of in 1974...

M

McKinley Burt, writer and columnist for the *Portland Observer*, formalized his 15 years of effort in directing minority and low income youth into health/medical careers when he filed this non-profit corporation with the State of Oregon last spring. This summer was one of intense activity in developing an experience-based structure that would permit the first student work/study positions to be ready by winter term (University and High School).

With the help of medical professionals and organizations, medical schools and related industries such as pharmaceutical companies (computerized data base), Burt feels that, today, he has designed and implemented a project that incorporates ideas he could only dream of in 1974 when he secured financing of a similar program from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. At the time Burt was an associate professor in the Urban Studies/Black History Department at Portland State University.

This "summer" program for college students provided salaries, transportation and incidentals for 12 students who were assigned to work/study positions at local hospitals and other health care institutions. Following the very same "expand-your-horizons" advice he gave his students, Burt had picked up a copy of the "Los Angeles Sentinel," the nation's largest African American newspaper, and had begun to look for "innovative ideas and trends" that would be beneficial to the Portland area.

That year (1974), a prominent and dedicated black family of physicians in Los Angeles had designed the program described above for their area. With a single phone call, Burt secured their cooperation in bringing the program to Portland, supported by a federal grant. When Portland State University's guidelines proved unsatisfactory to the head of Burt's department, a local social agency, the Metropolitan Steering Committee, was assigned the program. Mr. Burt still sees this as a tragic mistake, for it "made for a project of limited vision, besieged by internal politics--and most importantly, the many medical industry resources I had lined up were never utilized (to the tune of several hundred thousand dollars)."

Professor Burt says that he has incorporated this bitter lesson into his learning curve and in each subsequent project of placing minority students in these position he has maintained close control and supervision both at the administrative and workplace levels. An excellent example is his 1987

project at Providence Medical Center where close cooperation between all parties brought about the creation of some very meaningful jobs slots with long term potentials in the medical field. For instance, two black students from Benson High School were enabled to build upon their background in electronics and computer science in their jobs in computer analysis of blood and in data base hospital administration, respectively.

This project was far advanced over the 1974 project in other ways. The supervisory and student evaluation and feedback modes were far superior and have been incorporated into the planning of the present project. Many other real-time considerations have been brought into the process such as a full time science professional to work at a three-way liaison between the project personnel, the work site institution and the student's school that will be granting academic credit for the activity (The new project involves both high school and college students). Further developments now include requests of Oregon's Congressional Delegation for their support and the type of information retrieval at which they are best. A number of medical schools have begun to provide material on courses and scholarships available. And several foundations have expressed interest.

This fall there will be a large advertisement in the *Portland Observer* with a formal description of the project and solicitation of students who have interest in medical careers. There will be seminars announced where prospective students can meet with hospital and industry professionals for orientation in the health science fields--some from eastern and southern institutions. Career/work study slots will impact upon preparation for many fields--physician, nurse, medical illustrator, x-ray technician, medical sociologist, geriatrics, pediatrics, oncology, hospital plans, trauma centers, artificial limb manufacture, long term care, nutrition, pharmacy and others.

At the federal level this will be a "Demonstrations Project," and the intent is to secure a performance sufficiently effective to secure continued financing. Professor Burt feels that in consideration of the industry level of interest and support, and the further support of Oregon's Congressional Delegation--not to mention community support--all this will come together.

The name of the organization is derived from those of two black pioneers in the medical field; Dr. Charles Drew of blood plasma fame and Dr. Hallie Johnson, the first female physician of any color in the state of Alabama.

A number of medical schools have begun to provide material on courses and scholarships available.

Historically Black Colleges And Universities Share \$1.5 Million In HUD Technical Assistance Funds

Fifteen Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have been awarded \$1.5 million in technical assistance funds to help expand and improve Community Development Block Grant activities in minority communities, HUD Secretary Jack Kemp announced.

"With our shared dream of empowering local communities and unleashing a new generation of American

entrepreneurs, HUD is pleased to select these historically black colleges and universities to help reach that goal," Secretary Kemp said.

The HBCUs selected today will deliver a wide range of technical assistance services to nearby communities that participate--or would like to participate--in the Community Development Block Grant program. Working with these respected, historically black

colleges and universities, neighboring cities and rural communities will benefit through peer-to-peer consultation, creation of economic development plans, and workshops to enhance the effectiveness of existing block grant programs.

Below are the 15 Historically Black Colleges and Universities selected to share \$1.5 million in HUD Technical Assistance Funds.

Alabama Alabama A&M University 205-851-5230	Louisiana Xavier University 504-483-7541	North Carolina Elizabeth City State Univ. 919-335-3400
Arkansas University of Arkansas 501-541-6500	Maryland Morgan State University 301-444-3200	North Carolina North Carolina Central Univ. 919-560-6304
District Of Columbia Howard University 202-806-2500	University of Maryland 301-651-3306	Tennessee St. Augustine's College 919-828-4451
Florida Florida A&M University 904-366-2500	Mississippi Jackson State University 601-986-2323	Fisk University 615-329-8555

List Continues on Page 5

THIS WEEK
INSIDE

Readers Have The Last Word
by McKinley Burt

PAGE 2

Handwriting On The Wall
by Dr. Leona Fulani

PAGE 2

From the Bible
by Jerry Kingery

PAGE 3

New Study Shows Effect of Warning Labels on Records

PAGE 4



Double Impact
Jean-Claude Van Damme

PAGE 5



Story of a People: Expressions In Black

PAGE 5

INDEX

News	2
Religion	3
Entertainment	4
News	6
News	7
News	8
News	9
News	10
Classifieds	11
Bids & Sub-bids	12