1997 Special Edition

Colleges put focus on career opportunities

Curriculum programs in community development will be expanded at two historically black colleges and universities, Howard University, Washington, D.C., and Saint Augustine's College, Raleigh, N.C.

The improvements, made possible by grants of \$160,000, will improve un-

dergraduate education in community development, motivate young people to pursue career opportunities in the field, and expand in-service training for current community development practitioners.

The grants were awarded by New Yorkbased Seedco and announced during the organization's 10th anniversary celebration Thursday evening. Seedco is a private, nonprofit corporation that provides technical and financial assistance to community-based organizations and local anchor institutions, such as universities, colleges and health care facilities, that are working in partnership with their

"The community development field confronts two related challenges: expanding its focus from improving a community's physical condition to enhancing its assetbase; and launching comprehensive economic and social revitalization programs that can respond to changes created by welfare reform," explains Tom Seessel, Seedco president.

"The programs developed by these two institutions will help prepare a new generation of community development leaders with the knowledge, skills and vision to accomplish these

tasks and provide a model from which other higher education institutions can create their own programs," Seessel

According to a report by the National Congress for Community Economic Development, the community development field is a growth industry.



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Oprah jumpstarts careers

Oprah Winfrey will serve as national spokesperson for a program that provides academically talented minority students with access to the nation's top colleges.

To underscore her commitment, Winfrey contributed \$1 million to the ongoing work of A Better Chance.

Virtually all of the program's graduates go on to college and today nearly 9,000 alumni have careers that range from journalism to law and medicine, from public service and business to the arts.

"This enterprising organization has shown how you can make a real difference in a child's life and has simply captured my heart," Winfrey said.

"A Better Chance is thoughtful in its approach, imaginative in its programming and impressive in its results. While I have had a relationship with A Better Chance since 1989, I'm increasing my involvement now because of the growing need to expand the kind of services it offers," she said.

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