



EDUCATION / CAREER

Women Honored for Educational Programs

Mother, daughter team put spotlight on senseless and deadly violence of inner city gangs



Lanita Duke and Nia Gray, a Portland mother and daughter production team of news and educational programming, just returned from New York City where they accepted the esteemed Gracie Allen Award from the American Women in Radio and Television in the local markets division.

The duo was honored for the production of "Open In The Event of My Death" which captures the pain of senseless gang violence that eliminated the lives of a disproportionate number of black, inner-city males in Portland in the early 90s. The 18-minute piece addresses the effects of youth homicide on the black community.

National celebrities Connie Chung, Katie Couric, Mary Tyler Moore, Barbara Walters, and Candice Bergen were special guests of the awards ceremony.

Television news anchor Connie Chung (left) meets local news and education producer Nia Gray during an awards ceremony in New York City.

Oregon Colleges Gain on Diversity

Oregon's public universities are steadily improving in all areas of campus diversity, according to a new report developed by the Oregon University System.

The report, presented to The State Board of Higher Education, shows that Oregon's seven public universities have increased enrollments, improved the number of degrees awarded, and added to faculty and staff ranks among all people of color over the past five years.

According to the report, OUS campuses have increased minority enrollment by 22.4 percent from Fall

1996 to Fall 2001. Meanwhile, they've also increased degree production among minorities by 15.5 percent.

The largest enrollment percentage gain was among African American/Black students, up 27.1 percent from a total of 968 to 1,230 enrolled. In raw numbers, the largest increases were among Asian/Pacific Americans (up 23.5 percent from 2,920 to 4,840 and Hispanic/Latinos (up 24.3 percent from 1,960 to 2,370). American Indian/Alaska Native enrollment also grew by 7.7 percent (from 872 to 939 enrolled).

Students at Failing Schools May Get Tutors

(AP) - When the school year begins this fall, 3,000 to 5,000 schools nationwide probably will be declared "failing" by states, which would make their students eligible for federally paid tutoring or transportation to other public schools, Congress was told last week.

"I think one of the first challenges we have is to let parents know that this is an option," Undersecretary of Education Eugene Hickok said.

Part of the landmark Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which Presi-

dent Bush signed in January, included a requirement that students in grades three through eight be tested annually in reading and math. For the first time, students in schools where scores don't improve adequately over three or four years would be given federally funded tutoring or allowed to transfer to another public school with most of their transportation costs paid.

Few states have set up the new testing programs - and won't have to until the 2005-2006 school year. But since 1994, states have been re-

quired to test students three times in their school careers, once each in elementary, middle and high school.

Tutoring services in most schools probably will be available sooner than those allowing students to transfer to other schools, Hickok said.

Sen. James Jeffords, I-Vt., said about 100 of Vermont's 300 public schools probably would be considered failing and worried that the state won't have enough money to provide tutoring or other help.

"I think we're going to have an ungodly disaster on our hands next fall," he said.

Smith Pleads for YO Center

continued from A3
uled through 2004 at levels of \$5 million in the current fiscal year and \$3.75 million in 2003 and 2004.

Oregon's economy is still struggling to recover from a recession, and has an 8 percent unemployment rate - the highest in the nation. The neighborhood served by the center has an unemployment rate of 16 percent.

"Oregon's economy is still struggling to recover from a recession, and the neighborhood served by the Center has been particularly hard hit," said Smith. "I urge you to help me assist young people in Portland who want to help themselves."

Smith has also sent a letter to Labor Secretary Elaine Chao asking that the White House retain funding for Portland's Youth Opportunity Center in the president's Fiscal Year 2003 budget.

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