

THE Skanner

Challenging People to Shape
a Better Future Now

Bernie Foster
Founder/Publisher

Bobbie Dore Foster
Executive Editor

Jerry Foster
Advertising Manager

Christen McCurdy
News Editor

Patricia Irvin
Graphic Designer

Melanie Sevckenko
Reporter

Monica J. Foster
Seattle Office Coordinator

Susan Fried
Photographer



The Skanner Newspaper, established in October 1975, is a weekly publication, published every Wednesday by IMM Publications Inc.

415 N. Killingsworth St.
P.O. Box 5455
Portland, OR 97228

Telephone (503) 285-5555
Fax: (503) 285-2900

info@theskanner.com

www.TheSkanner.com

The Skanner is a member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and West Coast Black Publishers Association.

All photos submitted become the property of *The Skanner*. We are not responsible for lost or damaged photos either solicited or unsolicited.

©2017 The Skanner. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission prohibited.

THE Skanner.com

- Local News
- Pacific NW News
- World News
- Opinions
- Jobs, Bids
- Entertainment
- Community Calendar
- RSS feeds

**COMING IN APRIL:
THE WAKE OF
VANPORT MOVIE
SCREENING AT
THE HOLLYWOOD
THEATRE**

Opinion

Acknowledging Unprecedented Support for HBCUs

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. routinely would remind those of us who worked for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s about the vital importance of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). As we celebrated Black History Month 2017, Dr. King's admonition concerning the enduring need for HBCUs should be reaffirmed every month.

Dr. King once emphasized, "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character that is the goal of true education." Dr. King was a graduate scholar of one of the leading HBCUs, Morehouse College, in Atlanta, Georgia. He was not only an intellectual genius and spiritual leader, but also had an enormous moral character that kept SCLC's leadership on the front-line of civil rights social transformation.

There should be no rational debate about the contemporary necessity to support the sustainability of the nation's HBCUs. Yet we live in times where too many people have been misled to lean on the unfortunate and unstable walls of irrationality, divisiveness and the absence of truth.



Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

NNPA
President
and CEO

As we continue to posit and emphasize, there is a glaring need to demand intellectual honesty in all matters pertaining to the pursuit of freedom, justice, equality and empowerment for Black America and all others who struggle to improve the qual-

“The funding of HBCUs is a crucial matter that transcends the partisan divide between the left and the right

ity of life for all humanity. When it comes to the crucial funding of HBCUs, this is a matter that transcends the partisan divide between the left and the right.

Truth is nonpartisan. Truth is therapeutic. Substantial efforts to increase higher education opportunities for Black Americans and others should not get mired down in contradictory and self-defeating political discourse.

March 16 will mark the 190th anniversary of the Black Press in America since the first publication of "Free-

dom's Journal" on March 16, 1827 in New York City. Honesty, integrity, and publishing the truth without fear of consequence have been the hallmarks of the Black Press in the United States for nearly two centuries.

We have neither reluctance nor hesitation, therefore, to acknowledge the strategic and unprecedented support that the Charles Koch Foundation and Koch Industries have given to Historically Black Colleges and Universities via the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) and Thur-

good Marshall College Fund (TMCF).

Recently, one of the single largest financial contributions to TMCF, \$25.6 million, was made by the Charles Koch Foundation and Koch Industries. These funds are dedicated to establish and develop TMCF's Center for Advancing Opportunity.

"There are thousands of fragile communities across the United States where there are tremendous barriers to opportunity," said Dr. Johnny C. Taylor, Thurgood Marshall College Fund's president and

chief executive officer. "It's important to recognize that lasting change to strengthen these communities must begin at the local level. So, we are proud to come together with the Charles Koch Foundation and Koch Industries to help members of these communities identify and study the challenges most significant to them."

The Center for Advancing Opportunity will focus on education, criminal justice, entrepreneurship and other issues that affect the quality of life in African American communities. The center also will create research think tanks on HBCU campuses, provide academic scholarships, establish graduate fellowships and render grants to selected HBCU faculty members.

As a proud graduate of the flagship HBCU Howard University, I have witnessed firsthand the advantages and enormous value of primary research accomplished by Howard and other HBCU centers of research power, ingenuity and innovation. The proposed TMCF Center for Advancing Opportunity is a welcomed development that the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) salutes and applauds forthrightly.

Saving Hearts and Lives in the African American Community

Our heart is the engine that keeps our body running. That's why problems with the heart — such as coronary artery disease, high blood pressure or heart failure — can significantly impact a person's well-being, and, at worst, be life-threatening.

During February, American Heart Month, we were able to shine a spotlight on heart disease, the leading cause of death for men and women in the United States. For African Americans, it's also a time to raise awareness of how cardiovascular disease disproportionately impacts members of the Black community. Indeed, nearly half of African American adults suffer from some form of cardiovascular disease, compared to about a third of Whites, according to the American Heart Association.

This trend stems in part from the fact that African American men and women are more susceptible than other racial and ethnic groups to a number of health conditions that increase the risk of heart disease, including high blood pressure, obesity and diabetes. African Americans can take several small steps to manage these conditions and reduce their likelihood of experiencing cardiovascular



Patricia A. Maryland, Dr. PH

NNPA
Columnist

problems, including adopting a healthy diet, exercising regularly and avoiding smoking.

But improving heart health in the African American community means more than

“While care access plays a role in explaining heart health disparities, African-Americans also face unequal outcomes when they do seek medical treatment for heart conditions

taking care of ourselves as individuals; it requires a concerted effort by policymakers, healthcare providers and community leaders to address social and environmental barriers and champion proactive strategies for heart health. Only with contributions from all of these stakeholders can we build a culture of health to counter heart disease among African Americans.

Improving access to preventive cardiovascular care is our chief priority in the fight for African American heart health. As epidemiologists continue to study whether Af-

rican Americans might carry a gene that makes us more prone to heart problems, ensuring that our family, friends and neighbors take advantage of regular preventive screenings is critically important to identify their risk as early as possible. The fact remains that African Americans are less likely to get screened for high cholesterol or have their blood pressure under control — despite being 40 percent more likely to have

on heart-healthy living and counseling—is critical for patients. The lack of such care may be one reason African Americans experience higher readmission and mortality rates than white patients in the year after a heart attack, according to the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust.

For our part, healthcare providers must make it our mission to remove barriers for African American patients to preventive services, specialized care and effective follow-up procedures for heart health.

And we must also partner with patients to determine a strategy that can help them effectively monitor and control their conditions. At Ascension, we are acutely aware of the challenges that keep minority patients from accessing healthy heart care. That's why we recently established an ambitious goal: to eliminate race-, ethnicity- and language-based (REaL) disparities in preventable hospitalizations related to heart failure by 2022, as well as to achieve a significant reduction in heart failure admissions rates for Medicaid patients in our network.