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It is said that a million-mile journey begins with the first step taken.

NWTC's Vision of Success Program is that first step. The program, developed by the NWTC Director of College Diversity, is designed to narrow, and eventually close, the academic achievement gap throughout Brown County.

The Challenge

Under-representation of people of color in the fields of medical science and mechanical, chemical and electrical engineering in the United States is a well-documented fact. It is also a fact that one of the most critical factors impacting the attainment of college degrees by students of color is the lack of adequate exposure to math and science at an early age.

As we are aware, the students' high school years are pivotal to making or breaking future college enrollees. Ensuring high graduation rates of students of color requires improved and self-empowering academic programs as well as employing more teachers of color. Without increasing the enrollment and graduation of students of color, we cannot have more teachers of color. All available data shows that despite years of stated commitment to improving the quality of education and increasing college enrollment and graduation of students of color, an achievement gap in the areas of science and technology between white and non-white students continues to widen. It should be noted that according to a Manhattan Institute Study, Wisconsin has the lowest graduation rate among students of color. This trend is not going to change without aggressive and well-planned intervention strategies – strategies designed not only to enhance academic performance, but also foster aspiration to pursue post-secondary education.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE:

The Vision of Success Program objective is to partner with middle and high school math and science teachers to provide students of color the academic support needed to strengthen their basic mathematic, chemistry, physics, biology, reading and writing skills to ensure their success in post-secondary education. The program is designed to help students of color pursue their academic and career-focused activities countywide and statewide.

AVAILABLE SERVICES:

- 1. Tutorial Assistance:** Students enrolled in the program will receive on-site tutorial assistance in mathematics, chemistry, physics, biology, reading and writing skills. Qualified tutors will be employed. Tutors will be trained in tutoring skills and on race and culture-sensitivity before meeting the students.
- 2. Mentoring:** Alumni, business and community leaders, faculty members from area schools, and retired professionals will be carefully selected and recruited to serve as mentors.
- 3. Touring and Shadowing:** Arrangements will be made with local schools, government agencies, and local industry for the students of color to visit and shadow consistent with their career choices and program objectives. For example, a student interested in dentistry would spend a day at a local dentist's office.
- 4. Motivational Workshops:** Series of lectures and workshops will be conducted to introduce program students to key African-American, Latino/a, Native-American and Asian-American contributions to our nation and world in areas of human endeavor. Special attention will be given to inventors in the area of science and technology. Students will be taught how to conduct research, write research papers and make oral presentations.
- 5. Summer Pre-College Program:** Depending on funding, 11th and 12th grade students will be sponsored to attend summer classes at the NWTC Green Bay campus with NWTC instructors teaching. Course offerings will be designed to provide students of color with hands-on experience in their chosen field. They will be exposed to time management, test-taking, writing and study skills.

Achieve your dreams—learn math and science!



For more information about the Vision of Success Program, contact:

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