

# N.C. School of Science & Math Has Much To Offer Minority Students

Black students excel in the tough academic atmosphere at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, but too few blacks are enrolled, according to Ms. Ola F. Stringer, head of admissions. Of the current 301-member student body, only 46 students are black and, at this point, it looks as if the percentage will drop next year. So far, only fourteen black students have filed a nomination for the 1982 junior class.

The North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics (NCSSM), located in Durham, is a public residential high school for gifted and talented young women and men with intense interest and strong potential for high achievement in the fields of science and mathematics. Students are identified in the tenth grade and spend their junior and senior high school years at the school. There is no charge for tuition, room, board, or other special fees.

The school is seeking 50 North Carolina students for new admission in September 1982. "Minorities need to be made aware of the excellent opportunities that exist at the school," Ms. Stringer says. "Community and church leaders, school personnel, and private citizens need to encourage promising students and their parents to investigate the opportunities available for this challenging educational experience."

A core faculty teaches a rigorous program of science, mathematics, English, foreign languages, and social sciences as well as art and music. A residential life staff oversees the personal, social, and human needs of students in order to assure their total development. In addition, distinguished



JUNIORS ADRIAN LAWRENCE (left) from Fayetteville and BERYL G. BLOUNT FROM Greensboro, studying in the NCSSM library.

lecturers in science, mathematics, and a variety of fields often appear at the school.

Black students currently enrolled not only excel academically, socially, and athletically at the school but also compete well in the state and national arena.

Eight students are semi-finalists in the National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Black Students. The eight students are Lisa Dixon of Scotland Neck, Nathaniel Dobson of Teachey, Stephanie Jackson of Charlotte, Peter Lewter of Kelford, Otis Raeford of Burlington, Ellis Smith of Elizabeth City, Chip Tillman of High Point, and Tricia Townes of Durham.

Chip Tillman was selected as a finalist in competition for the 1982 Morehead Awards to study at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Chip is also the school's first student body president. Percil Watkins of Zebulon was selected last summer to attend a conference for

noteworthy students conducted by the North Carolina State University School of Engineering. Thomas Gilchrist of Raeford attended the Governor's School in the summer of 1981.

Students currently enrolled at NCSSM find the benefits both positive and rewarding. Many see their experience as a significant investment in the future.

Regina Pettis of Charlotte finds that "the school has afforded her the opportunity to express and develop talent that was hidden. I strongly feel that this talent will benefit both me and our society in future years." Gaye Blount of Greensboro thinks that the most significant aspect of the school is its residential program. She says, "I have adopted a new family with unity and closeness. This family is the entire student body. I am so glad that I made the decision to attend."

Adrian Lawrence of Fayetteville feels that being selected was "an important milestone in my life as the school pro-

vides a sophisticated education at a young age, and this will assist me in attaining my career and personal goals." Regina Dobson of Teachey says that "Black students need not expect perfection at NCSSM, but they should seek to perfect and, most of all, to accept and learn." She believes "that NCSSM was created to help make each individual want to change his/her world for

the betterment of all." "At this point in their lives, these students have a wealth of potential that can flourish in the environment of the school as they pursue career paths and, in the future, they will make significant contributions to American society. They will become the leaders of tomorrow," says Ms. Sarah W. Hamilton, dean of Academic Affairs.

Among the outstanding staff members who help administer NCSSM is Ms. Ola F. Stringer who joined the original staff in 1979 as the leading official in the office of admissions. Ms. Stringer brings an outstanding background to the school. Some of her past appointments have included work at Richmond Technical Institute in Hamlet (NC) as instructor, counselor and registrar (1970-76); and as registrar and director of Admission and Records at Barber-Scotia College in Concord, Ms. Stringer received both the bachelor's and graduate degrees at A&T State University.

Ms. Sarah W. Hamilton, appointed by Governor Hunt to the founding Board of Trustees as one of the

first scientists, serves as acting academic dean. She is a graduate of North Carolina Central University. Ms. Hamilton was a teacher of advanced placement students and has 28 years of educational experience with the North Carolina public school system. She is a former Richmond County Teacher of the Year, an Outstanding Secondary Teacher of the Year, Alpha Pi Chi Woman of the Year, and a National Foundation Master Teacher.

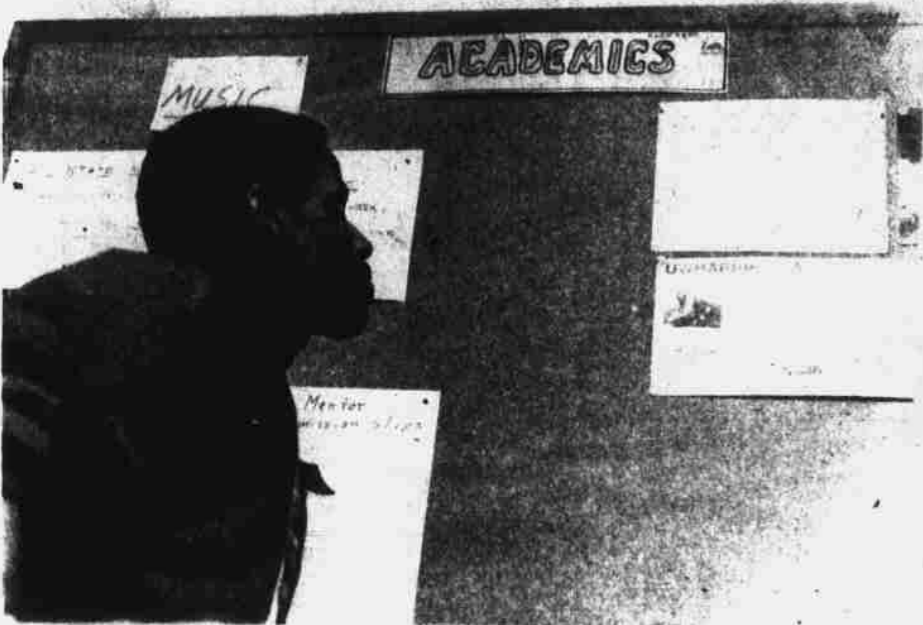
The school's business affairs are handled by administrator Joe L. Gibbs, a graduate of Shaw University. Gibbs was the assistant controller at North Carolina Central University before joining the NCSSM staff.

Dr. Mary Townes, graduate dean at North Carolina Central, has been a leading force with the school since its inception. She is currently a member of the Board of Advisors. Dr. Townes' background in the field of science in-

cludes: consultant to numerous scientific and educational organizations, the National Academy of Science, the National Institutes of Health, and the Minority Institutions Science Improvement Program. Dr. Townes received her B.S. degree at North Carolina College, Durham, (now N.C. Central University), her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Michigan. "Because Dr. Townes' daughter, Tricia, is a student, Dr. Townes has in-



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