

CAREERS

Briefs

Winston-Salem again ranked as a Top 10 'Digital City'

For the seventh year in a row Winston-Salem has been ranked as one of the top 10 most technology-advanced cities in America of its size by the Center for Digital Government.

Winston-Salem tied for second in the center's 2008 Digital Cities Survey of cities with a population of 125,000 to 249,999. The annual study examines how city governments are using digital technologies to better serve their citizens and streamline operations.

The Digital Cities rankings were announced in conjunction with the annual meeting of the National League of Cities last week in Orlando, Fla.

"This year's winners reflect that even with budgetary challenges, cities are placing a high value on citizen engagement and improved services," said Cathilea Robinett, the executive director for the Center for Digital Government.

Over the past year, the city enhanced its digital services to include online requests for services through City Link and to look up the status of special Sanitation services, such as an online leaf collection schedule, said Dennis Newman, the city's chief information officer.

The city tied for second place with Salt Lake City, Utah. The only other North Carolina city in the rankings was Durham, which tied for 10th place in the same population category.

Wal-Mart Foundation extends letter of credit to MLK Project

The Wal-Mart Foundation has provided a \$12.5 million letter of credit to the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc., which will expedite the beginning of physical construction of a memorial for the slain Civil Rights icon on the National Mall in Washington.

The Wal-Mart Foundation's latest effort is in addition to the \$1 million donation it made in 2005.

The letter of credit allows the Memorial Foundation to obtain a construction permit from the National Park Service (NPS) to begin construction of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial. Both the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts announced final approval of the Memorial design in September 2008.

"The Wal-Mart Foundation has played a vital role in the development of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial by first making a \$1 million donation in 2005 and now providing a \$12.5 million letter of credit," said Harry E. Johnson, president and CEO of the Memorial Foundation. "Wal-Mart's partnership demonstrates the company's ongoing commitment to the community and to the causes important to its associates and customers. The company's continued support helps to uphold the ideals of hope, democracy, justice and love for which Dr. King stood."

The Memorial Foundation continues its aggressive program to reach its total fundraising goal of \$120 million. To date, the Memorial Foundation has raised \$100 million. The Wal-Mart Foundation's letter of credit will also help the Memorial Foundation as it seeks to raise additional funds needed to complete the overall construction of Dr. King's memorial.

SunTrust Web site designed to help small business owners

ATLANTA - SunTrust Banks, Inc. has launched Business Solutions Central (www.bizsolutionscentral.com), an informational and educational resource designed to complement SunTrust's offerings and long-standing commitment to businesses.

The site gives owners of small and medium sized businesses solid advice, education and solutions to achieve success on their own terms, and when it's most convenient for them.

"SunTrust understands that while business owners are often forced to juggle many roles within their daily responsibilities, their core focus is to make their businesses profitable and achieve success," said Gay Abbott, executive vice president, head of SunTrust's Commercial line of business. "Business Solutions Central was developed with businesses in mind. The site provides resources and solutions to help owners better manage time and cash flow while optimizing business efficiencies."

Business Solutions Central is an educational resource for all businesses providing tips, tools, best practices reports, case studies and expert advice.

In addition to launching Business Solutions Central, SunTrust has also recently begun a tour of the greater Atlanta area with its mobile educational vehicle, Business on the Go. Business on the Go is touring Atlanta, and soon will be touring Charlotte to provide business owners with a unique, hands-on opportunity to learn more about the ways they can address their operational efficiency challenges.

Visit www.bizsolutionscentral.com for more information.



Johnson

Exec to speak on being 'Black, Male, and Gay'

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The newly formed Gay-Straight Student Alliance (GSSA) at Winston-Salem State University, in partnership with WSSU Black Men for Change (BMC), will host a lecture by Brandon G. Major, talent management manager with Food Lion, on Thursday, Dec. 4, at 6:30 p.m. It will be followed by a panel discussion. Both events will take place in Dillard Auditorium at the Albert H. Anderson Conference Center.

Major's presentation, which is free and open to the



Brandon G. Major

public, is entitled "Black, Male, and Gay in Corporate America: The Unique Challenges and Opportunities."

The panel discussion will feature Triad-based diversity officers and human resource professionals, including Donna Oldham of Dell; Candice Wooten of Reynolds American; and Ed Hanes, Winston-Salem State University EEO Officer.

BMC strives to help empower African-American males through knowledge to rise above negative stereotypes

and become assets to their communities. The GSSA seeks to build and develop positive relationships between the heterosexual and gay communities.

Collectively, both groups strive to inform their members of various personal and professional development opportunities.

For more information about this event contact Shaun Trotter, community service chair, at 252-571-4175 or e-mail him at strotter106@wssu.edu.

Honor society honors A&T's Williamson

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

North Carolina A&T State University's Sandra Williamson has been awarded by the National Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society for her outstanding work as an advisor.

Williamson, assistant director of the university's Honor's Program, recently was named the Outstanding Advisor of Alpha Lambda Delta for 2007-2008.

Williamson, who also teaches history at the institution, has served as the school's chapter advisor for Alpha Lambda Delta since 2002.

"As chapter advisor, Sandy Williamson has gently guided, prodded and counseled students on what ALD represents and pressed them to make sure it stood for community commitment and academic excellence on campus," said Dr. Peter Meyers, former director of the Honors Program.

Since Williamson became the advisor, the local chapter has been chosen by the campus Council of Presidents as the Outstanding Honor Society at A&T. In 2005, the chapter won the prestigious "Order of the Torch Award" and has won the "Maintaining the Flame Award" for the past three years.

Lee Purvis, vice president for the local ALD chapter said, "Mrs. Williamson conveys all of the factors of an excellent advisor which are compassion, dedication, and being a motivator to our chapter. She sets the standard for what an advisor should be."



Williamson

PHONE FAN



PRNewsFoto/Verizon Wireless

Clifton Dailey looks happy after bagging one of the first new BlackBerry Storms at the Verizon Wireless Communications Store in Southfield, Mich. He was among hundreds of customers who waited in lines at stores around the country to purchase the popular new touch screen smartphone that debuted last Friday and is available exclusively from Verizon Wireless in the U.S.



Child Support Obligations

The following is the latest in a monthly series of columns being penned by members of the Winston-Salem Bar Association, which is made up of local, mostly African-American, legal professionals.

The law that governs child support in North Carolina can generally be found in Chapters 50 and 110 of the North Carolina General Statutes. Courts follow these statutes when establishing, enforcing and modifying child support obligations.

Parents, both custodial (recipients of child support) and non-custodial (those who pay child support), are often confused about the process of establishing, enforcing, and modifying child support obligations. This article will briefly

address each of these issues.

In North Carolina, parents are required to support their children until they are 18 years old and have graduated from high school or are otherwise emancipated. In some instances, parents are required to support their children until they reach the age of 20 if the child is not emancipated, is attending school on a regular basis and is making satisfactory progress toward graduating. North Carolina generally does not require parents to support their children beyond high school.

A child support action is civil in nature and is, therefore, initiated by a summons and complaint. If these documents are served on you, do not ignore them. These documents give you notice that you have been named as the parent

First minority named to NC Appraisal Board

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

President-Elect Barack Obama is not the only one making history and breaking through glass ceilings.

Durham's Lauriette West-Hoff was recently appointed 40 North Carolina Appraisal Board, making her the board's first minority member and only its second woman.

Gov. Mike Easley made the appointment based on a recommendation from Joe Hackney, speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives. The mission of the North Carolina Appraisal Board is to protect consumers of real estate provided by its licensees by assuring that licensees are sufficiently trained and tested to assure competency and independent judgment.

In addition, the board protects the public interest by enforcing state law and Appraisal Board rules to assure that its licensees act in accordance with professional standards and ethics.

West-Hoff is a graduate of North Carolina Central University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and sociology. She also has a master's and a Jurist Doctorate from NCCU. She received a MBE and GMBE from Dartmouth College.

She has been a general/residential appraiser for more than 34 years. West-Hoff is also a real-estate broker, a Certified Master Trainer, a Certified Real Estate Instructor and a practicing attorney specializing in family and real-estate law. West-Hoff is sole practitioner of L. W. West Law Offices, and General Counsel and President Emeritus of Southern Real Estate Management & Consultants, Inc.

Before a packed audience of relatives, friends and constituents, West-Hoff was sworn-in at the North Carolina Appraisers Board Headquarters in Raleigh on Tuesday, Nov. 10 by North Carolina Court of Appeals Judge Wanda Bryant. By her side was her husband, Julius F. Hoff Sr., a former diplomat and engineer.



Submitted Photo

Lauriette West-Hoff takes her oath beside her husband.

Twanda Staley

Guest Columnist

See Staley on A11