

Lorenzo Poe Encourages Students To "Study Hard"

By Loretta Manna
Post Staff Writer

Anywhere from the beginning of a child's schooling to the final years prior to graduation, Lorenzo Poe, principal-teacher has had a hand in shaping and molding the adults of today.

"The satisfaction that I have gotten from the 40 years I have spent as an educator has come from the opportunity to see young people, under my guidance, develop into worthwhile citizens of the community," reflected Poe.

Even today, although he is no longer actively involved in the school system Poe encourages young people in school to study hard and to be honest in his/her dealing with his/her fellowman. "I've learned when you practice the golden rule, most likely your life will be well-spent."

Before Poe began his career in education he had once given thought to pursuing a career as a doctor. But when money became an obstacle in that path, he decided to explore education. "After I got into education, I discovered that this was what I wanted to do all along," stressed Poe.

Poe has not always been a principal. As a matter of fact, his first seven years in education were spent as a science teacher. He taught in his native state, Alabama, Virginia, and North Carolina. Although I was very satisfied with being a teacher, about four or five years after being a teacher, my thoughts began to turn more towards a principalship. I felt that I could touch more people as a principal," recalled Poe.

For the remaining of his 33 years in education, that's exactly what Poe has been doing. By giving his



Lorenzo Poe
Retired educator

total commitment to his career, by showing to his staff and the student body his genuine concern by being a strong adherent for progress in education, Poe has touched lives wherever he went. He has been principal at Davidson Union School, Sterling High School, assistant principal at Olympic and principal at Amay James Elementary School.

Having worked on both the secondary and the elementary levels Poe said that he found working with high school students more challenging. "There was just more people to reach out to on the high school level than there was on the elementary one."

Over the years Poe has noticed and noted many

changes that have occurred in education over the past forty years. But as far as he's concerned, the caliber of teachers has definitely improved.

"Through the years I think teachers have become more dedicated to the positions that they hold. In my opinion, when I first started out there just wasn't that many options to pursue other fields, the lack of money prevented that. But today, I think, teachers are truly committed to improving the level of education."

Poe graduated from Knoxville College. He did further graduate studies at North Carolina Central University. Although he is retired Poe spends a great deal of his time volunteer-

ing for various organizations in the city, at church and at the YMCA. He is a past president of the ninth district, Parents-Teachers

Association, past president of the Mecklenburg County Teachers' Association, past president of the Board of Managers of the YMCA

and a member of the Boys Scout Council. Poe attends Simpson Gillette United Methodist Church where he has held several offices.

Neighborhood Center Sponsors Black History Celebration

For the first time, the City Neighborhood Centers Department will sponsor a community celebration of Black History Month on Saturday, February 9, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Greenville Center, 1330 Spring Street. The public is invited free of charge.

Mayor Harvey Gantt will open the ceremonies which feature local leaders, black entertainment, arts and crafts, traditional foods, fashions and hair styles. In looking forward to the Black History Month celebration, Mayor Gantt said, "I think it is significant that our Neighborhood Centers Department - as a decentralized arm for outreach and human services - is taking a lead role in bringing to the population they serve, and the city at large, a program to the recognize the accomplishments and aspirations of our black citizens during a celebration of Black History Month.

I invite widespread public participation and hope that by remembering the making of our past, we can, together, create projects and plans worthy of our future."

Activities during the day

long celebration include a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by Delano Rackard; prizes awarded to winners of "My Favorite Black Hero" high school essay contest; displays by John White, a local Pulitzer Prize winning photographer, artist T.J. Reddy, designers LaVerne Ellerbe and Darryll Goodwin; artifacts from the Afro-American Cultural Center; entertainment by Michael Porter Trio, Ebony Dance Troupe, Ronald Walter Johnson Spiritual Choir from Johnson C. Smith

University and Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble; and live broadcast by WGIV.

For more information about the celebration of Black History Month call 336-2060.

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