

NEA Lauds Report Calling For Better Preparation of Students And Adults In Job Market

WASHINGTON, D.C. ienal Education Association nly praised a new study by the onal Center of Education and Economy as a landmark and hicant report signaling the need drastic changes in preparing dents to enter the U.S. rkforce

This report further supports the for greater commitment by the siness and education mmunities to improve ductivity and raise our standard living," noted NEA President ith Geiger.

The NEA stands ready to ome a stakeholder in this alive and contribute to the elopment of new tools to meet demands of our economic wellg," he added.

The report, issued by the mission on the Skills of the rican Workforce, calls for ound changes in the way U.S. overs organize work and the our nation educates and trains vorkers.

the report makes five major mmendations to improve U.S. petitiveness and productivity in the high skilled and

report calls for the establishment of state and federally supported alternative learning environments for those who cannot meet the newly proposed national student standards.

Gary Watts, senior director of NEA's National Center for Innovation, sees this suggestion as consistent with the need to provide appropriate learning experiences for all students, including those who need additional incentives and assistance.

"If we are truly going to be successful in establishing a new economic order in the United States, we must identify ways to recapture those who currently drop out of schools and involve them in learning experience consistent with the needs of American business and

industry," said Watts. "Our public school system can provide the basic infrastructure to develop and implement approaches that serve all students," added Watts

While the report suggests fundamental changes in the way we build our future workforce, it fails to put a price tag for implementing

AN EXCEPTIONAL VOICE FOR THE PEOPLE--Amiri Baraka, left, noted author, poet and All Exception at the volce role and the root established and a special author, poet and playwright, was a special guest at a Miller Brewing Company-sponsored reception at the DuSable Museum in Chicago, which kicked off the National Newspaper Publishers Association's (NNPA) 50th annual convention. Virgis Colbert, Miller vice president for materials manufacturing, presented a crystal appreciation plaque to Baraka for his appearance. During the reception, NNPA members had an opportunity to view Miller's 1990 Gallery of Greats art collection which features Baraka and 11 other noted black authors. The touring art collection also will be on display in New York City and Atlanta later this year.

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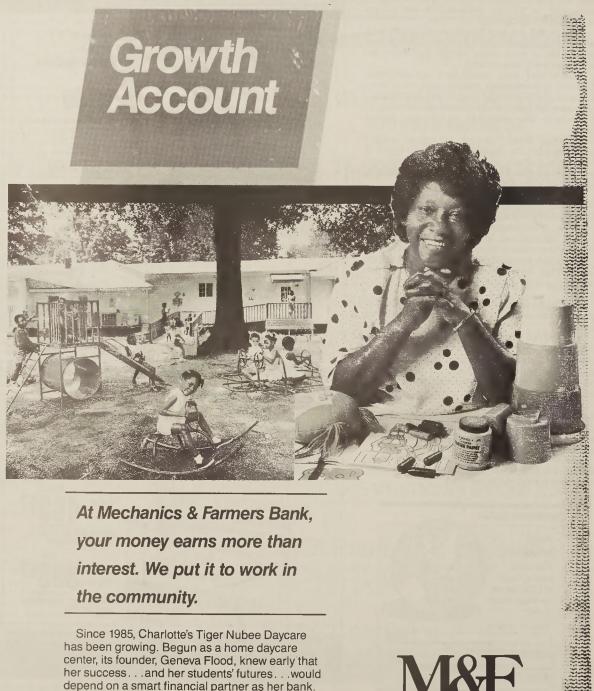
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bnical workplace.

It calls for establishing a prehensive system of fessional educational ifications for students and ults who do not pursue a calaureate degree, for overs to allocate at least one rent of their payroll to the mal education and training of workers, and for the creation system of employment and ing boards to organize and term a new high performance training system

losed by the commission. he commission also calls for ng national educational ormance standards for all

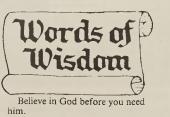
This recommendation is stent with our membership' tern for establishing more stic methods of evaluating ent achievement," said Geiger. he NEA sponsored Mastery In ning initiatives have developed assessment models that go nd the pencil and paper hod. Under the Mastery ram, teachers working in teams mment with new ways to ove and measure student ement

Another significant, mendation outlined in the

proposed recommendations, Geiger pointed out.

"Clearly, we have an excellent opportunity to challenge the business community to support this concept in spirit and deed by calling its members to help identify the financial and in-kind resources, from the public and private sectors, to begin immediate implementation of these recommendations," he said. "The provision of equal economic and educational opportunity for all of our students deserves no less," he added. The two-million-member National Education is

National Education Association is the nation's largest professional employee organization.



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