

# WFU Minority Grants

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years. University officials say they are seeking out students who qualify and are also asking students to apply to the university for the scholarships.

The minority scholarship program was renamed the Joseph G. Gordon Scholarships in honor of a

local African-American doctor who is an associate professor emeritus of radiology at the university's Bowman Gray School of Medicine. Gordon, who attended the convocation with members of his family, is also a member of the foundation board.

African-American students make up nearly eight percent of

the undergraduates on campus. That is up from the five percent level at the university in 1984-85. But in the freshman class of 1990, African-American students comprise 8.4 percent of the class. University officials hope to boost that figure to ten percent by the fall of 1992.

In addition to the Gordon

Scholarships, the foundation has also provided substantial support for the Nancy Susan Reynolds Scholarships. That, too, is a merit-based program designed to attract the top students from high schools statewide and around the country. The foundation gift provides an additional half million dollars to the program, bringing the total

contribution to \$2.6 million.

The gift counts toward the university's Heritage and Promise Capital Campaign, which is targeted to raise \$150 million during the next five years for faculty support and student aid. By the end of the campaign in 1996, the foundation will have given more than \$52 million to Wake Forest.

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# Transition

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committee are Marie Roseboro, the regional cashier for Golden State Life Insurance Company; Homer Moeller, executive vice president of operations for Sara Lee Knit Products; Willie Pearson, a professor of sociology at Wake Forest University; James Rousseau, director of planning and development at Forsyth Technical Community College; Rev. Serenus Churn, pastor at Mt. Zion Baptist Church; and local attorney Joyce Neely.

It is significant that two ministers are on the committee. The Ministers' Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity was extremely critical of the former Urban League board because no ministers were members.

In a statement released late Tuesday, Johnson said the transition committee hopes to have its work completed within 30 days.

"I don't foresee any obstacles," Johnson said, "our charge is clear. We want to make sure we have a board that is diverse culturally, racially, and economically. We want to make sure that we have the kind of board that the national office says it ought to be."

But he said he felt having the work completed by March 1 was a realistic goal.

The committee spent a great deal of time going through a rather lengthy list of names submitted for consideration for membership on the board that came to the national office in New York from league staff members, the community, the local United Way, and committee members.

The committee is asking that anyone in the community wishing to nominate or place names for membership on the board to send the names and resumes to the Winston-Salem Urban League or to Johnson at First Baptist Church.

The committee must pick 15 directors in order for the new board to approve the chapter's budget and make sure funds from the local United Way will continue.

The United Way is the Urban League's largest single contributor, making up nearly half the league's budget with a half million dollars.

After the board is chosen, it will then try to create a membership committee so that league members can elect their directors according to one committee member who is not to be identified.

Urban League officials also hope to maintain a rotation policy that keeps the time board members serve to six years.

The reconstitution of the Urban League Board became necessary in the aftermath of a turbulent board battle over the dismissal of the league's president and CEO Delores Smith in November. Several board members resigned and others chose not to return for another term on the board. Only four board members remained. The board's bylaws state that the board must have at least 15 members for board actions to be valid.

A petition is circulating in various segments of the African-American community calling for the reinstatement of Smith to her position at the Urban League.

In order for Smith to do that she would have to be certified once again by the National Urban League. Former board members who opposed Smith's dismissal say her reinstatement is possible but declined to discuss how probable that might be.

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