

AKAs come to A&T to announce nationwide outreach

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority has unveiled a model program at colleges and universities nationwide where technological skills will be taught free of charge to residents in communities adjacent to the schools. The ambitious program is part of AKA's resolve to give African Americans high-end skill sets so they will be more competitive in the workplace and can improve their economic standing. This initiative also parallels the economic vision of International President Barbara A. McKinzie, whose programmatic theme, ESP, represents Economics Service and Partnerships.

The official announcement was made on April 21 at North Carolina A&T State University, one of the eleven beta sites for the initiative. Those on hand for the announcement included McKinzie, Second Vice President Ranika Sanchez, who heads Alpha Kappa Alpha's undergraduates internationally; International Program Chairman Loan Honesty King; Ruby Bates Archie, Mid-Atlantic Regional Director

whose territory embraces North Carolina A&T; and Dr. Lloyd "Vic" Hackley, interim chancellor of North Carolina A&T.



Hackley

Alpha Kappa Alpha will work with higher education institutions and other student groups to develop an exemplary model undergraduate access and training program that serves the community and becomes part of the central activities of the institution.

It will be administered by undergraduates at each college/university that has an undergraduate chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. It is part of the sorority's International Program and is titled, "Undergraduate Signature

Program: Economic Educational Advancement through Technology."

Langston University, the University of Toledo, North Carolina A & T, Florida A & M University, Jackson State University, Northwestern University, Texas Southern University, Vanderbilt University, Brown University, Stanford

University and the University of the Virgin Islands will take part in the effort.

According to McKinzie, the goal is to instill the value and importance of volunteering to assist in worthwhile causes in young adults. The overarching resolve is to enhance participants' skills and position them to obtain better paying jobs.

generate more per capita earnings and imbue them with marketable skills so they can navigate their way in a high-tech world.

Each undergraduate chapter in collaboration with their respective college/university will develop a community outreach plan to attract area resi-

dents to participate. Undergraduates will fan out to the community to spread the word about this historic program.

VT

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While gun control advocates point to the shootings as dramatic evidence of the need for tougher laws, gun-rights supporters kept their heads down last week.

Leaders of both major political parties focused their reactions on expressions of sympathy for the victims and their families, while avoiding comment on gun control.

The National Rifle Association, the nation's leading gun lobby, expressed its condolences, but said, "We will not have further comment until all the facts are known."

In brief remarks from the White House, President Bush expressed the nation's grief over the carnage on the Blacksburg campus.

However, Bush, a longtime champion of the right to bear arms, said nothing about the gun-control debate.

Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, D-N.Y., whose husband was killed by a gunman who opened fire in a railroad car on Long Island in 1993, was one of the few members of Congress who added a political note to her statement of sympathy.

"The unfortunate situation in Virginia could have been avoided," she said, "if congressional leaders stood up to the gun lobby?"

In Virginia, efforts to control handguns typically are met with well-funded resistance, giving the commonwealth a reputation as a state where guns are more easily obtained.

As governor in the early 1990s, Mayor Wilder successfully pushed a measure leading to Virginia's current law restricting handgun purchases to one per month.

Bolstered by international condemnation of lax U. S. gun laws generated by the shocking slayings, gun-control advocates say Virginia's law isn't tough enough.

In 2006, Virginia lawmakers rebuffed proposed legislation that would have given public university students and employees with concealed weapons permits the right to carry their weapons on campus.

The semi-automatic handguns - a Glock 9mm and a Walther - used by Tech senior Cho Seung-Hui to carry out the massacre were purchased legally in February and March in a Blacksburg pawn shop and a Roanoke gun shop, according to reports.

Virginia Attorney General Robert "Bob" McDonnell, a conservative Republican, said in a nationally televised interview that the state's gun laws would be part of a review of the incident, but it is way too premature to say if any changes need to be made in existing law.

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