

Education Group Works For Better Schools

By Loretta Richardson
Post Staff Writer

Several misconceptions have surrounded the newly formed Black Educators' Support Group.

"We've been thought to be a channel where educators who are frustrated with the system can come and air grievances," expressed Michael Turner, co-president of the organization.

"But that's not what we're about. We're not a platform for who gets hired or who gets fired. The group was organized back in January with the support and encouragement of the administration. We have gotten very, positive feedback from administration concerning the goals of our group."

Turner, the principal at Northwest Middle School expressly stated that "his group is not an overseer of the system." "Instead we are pulling on the strengths of each other to make the educational environment work better for our professionals and black students."

Because this group is already in the system, it feels that it can best serve those two parties more efficiently than other groups in the community who occasionally address educational issues.

Thus far, what has been a major commitment on the Black Educators' Support Group's behalf is their resolve to see black representation on the All Star Scholars Program sponsored by the Mecklenburg Neighbors. "We're working with students throughout the year, as well as parents and counselors."

"We feel that with the right group of people together, children will better benefit from the educational process," asserted Turner. Those children includes students on all grade levels.

Turner leaves little doubt that his group is the right combination of people. 117 member strong, the Black Educators' Support Group has plunged head on into the work at hand since January.

In September, the Black Educators', in its first activity welcomed the new superintendent, Peter Relic to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System.

Their next event, scheduled for Saturday, November 14 is a workshop on interviewing skills for educational professionals and anyone else who is interested in attending.

According to Turner workshops like the one scheduled serve as an example of the group's in-

terests. "Basically, we take a look at what the group wants to do and then conduct activities around those objectives."

Since the Black Educators' Support Group has begun, Turner determined that one of the most urgent requests from the group is how to help teachers make the transition from classrooms to administration. The Black Educators' Support Group respond to those needs and at once each quarter, the organization sponsors an activity to address those needs that have been aired.

By the year's end, this group of educators would like to sponsor an activity that will include the corporate community. "We're hoping to give \$5,000 in scholarships this year to students," added Turner.

Although the organization is still in its infancy, Turner claims that the group is growing. "Because of some of the misperceptions that exist about our group, some people have taken a 'wait and see' attitude about us. The activities we have planned have served to strengthen the credibility of the group. Also we have a building representative in each school who can be contacted about

membership as well as any activities that may be sponsored. Each third Monday of the month, the group meets. Locations for the meetings vary and preceding each meeting, members of the executive council set the agenda.

"These meetings give us (educators) a chance to mingle and share with people of similar interests. We become familiar with the talents within the group. It's a real positive group. I leave the meeting with a good feeling. We're working hard for ourselves and our children," commented Turner.

Having been active for approximately nine months, the Black Educators' Support Group have at least proved one thing: Parents, teachers, students and administrators can work harmoniously to achieve positive goals.

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UNCF Chair To Speak At Barber-Scotia

Concord, NC — Hugh Cullman, Vice Chairman of Philip Morris Companies Inc. and Chairman of the United Negro College Fund, Inc. (UNCF), will be the keynote speaker at the Barber-Scotia College UNCF Kick-Off Dinner on Monday, October 19, at 7:30 p.m., in the College Union Dining Hall.

Mr. Cullman will speak to assembled corporate executives, community leaders, alumni, students, friends and supporters of Barber-Scotia College. The kick-off dinner is part of the campaign drive of UNCF to raise \$73,000 in the Concord/Cabarrus and surrounding communities in support of Barber-Scotia College.

"These 43 colleges have taken the most economically disadvantaged students, provided them with tuition assistance and a supportive environment and they have sent into the mainstream an educated cadre of highly productive men and women," said Mr. Cullman. "This nation's traditionally black colleges are proving to be strategic assets in America's competitive arsenal."

According to Dr. Sammie Potts, vice president for development at Barber-Scotia College, each of the 43 member institutions of UNCF must raise funds for the annual operating budget of the national organization which fosters educational opportunities for more than 50,000 young men and women. Appeals are made to corporations, foundations, alumni, churches, organizations and the general public. Since its founding 43 years ago, the UNCF has raised more than \$400 million for black higher education.

Over the past 40 years, Philip Morris Companies, Inc. and its operating companies, including Philip Morris U.S.A., Miller Brewing Company and General Foods Corp., have provided financial support to the UNCF.

Mr. Cullman continued his family's tradition of involvement with the UNCF when he became a volunteer fund-raiser in 1980. His mother, Mrs. Marguerite W. Cullman, began her work as an active volunteer with the Fund in New York in 1944.

"We are grateful that the Fund has become a Cullman family tradition," said Christopher F. Edley, President of the UNCF, "because Hugh Cullman brings to the Fund the dynamic leadership needed to strengthen black colleges today, along with an enormous personal commitment."

Mr. Cullman led the UNCF's Greater New York Campaign as its Chairman from 1980 through 1985. He was the Fund's National Corporate Chairman in 1984 and 1985 and served as Vice Chairman of the Fund's National Campaign from 1981 to 1983. Mr. Cullman was elected a member of the Fund's National Board in 1981 and became Chairman of the Board of the UNCF in March 1987.

A 1945 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Mr. Cullman served as an Assistant Gunnery Officer aboard the Destroyer U.S.S. Metcalf in the Pacific Theater. He also served on active duty during the Korean War.

Mr. Cullman joined Benson & Hedges in 1949 and when that company was acquired by Philip Morris in 1954, Mr. Cullman was named Director, Market Research.



Hugh Cullman

Mr. Cullman moved up within Philip Morris, serving as President of Philip Morris International and later as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Philip Morris U.S.A., before he was appointed to

his present position on July 1, 1985.

Mr. Cullman is a director of United Virginia Bank and United Virginia Bankshares Incorporated. He also serves as Vice Chairman and Member of the Executive Committee of the United States Council for International Business. In 1984 he was named Chairman of the Business and Industry Advisory Committee on Trade to Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Mr. Cullman received honorary doctorate degrees from Virginia Union University in 1984 and St. Augustine's College in 1987; both UNCF institutions.

A ticket donation to the UNCF Kick-Off Dinner is \$15 and can be obtained in the Office of Development at Barber-Scotia College. For additional information, call 704-786-5171.

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