

# African American Program Started At Temple University

Thirty-three students enrolled in America's first doctoral program in African American Studies at Temple University in Philadelphia. The program also includes a supportive master's degree even though the masters is accepted from other schools and other disciplines.

Temple President Dr. Peter J. Liacouras and the university's Board of Directors approved the graduate program in 1987. The first classes began this week.

Dr. Molfi Asanti, head of the university's African American Studies Department, will head the program. He is a noted scholar, a prolific writer whose most recent book is *The Afrocentric Idea*. He has authored 22 other books.

Fifteen of the Ph.D. candidates are from Pennsylvania, five from New York and three from New Jersey. The others represent Ohio, Virginia, Delaware, Loui-

siana and Michigan. African students are from Cameroon, Ghana and Nigeria. Over one-half of the first class has masters degrees. They are in law, health, education, rhetoric, library

science, theology, English, communications and broadcast management. Five of the master degrees are in African American Studies.

Dr. Liacouras, Temple's president, said, "This is a university priority. This action moves Temple to becoming a national center for scholarships for the


study of African culture and history."

According to Dr. Asanti the establishment of Temple's Ph.D. program was a direct result of

Temple's ten year academic plan. "Within five years," he said, "Temple's department of African American Studies should be the best program in the country."

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## Black College Payback '88

Jackson, Miss. -- Graduates and former students of the nation's 116 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are being asked to contribute over \$8 million during "Payback '88," a two-month fund-raising campaign instituted four years ago to increase alumni financial support of minority institutions of higher learning. The campaign is sponsored by the Council of National Alumni Associations.

Funds raised in last year's campaign totaled over \$8 million and organizers of the 1988 project are hopeful that contributions will exceed that amount.

"The funds are used to help pay delinquent accounts and to establish scholarships at Historically Black Colleges and Universities across the nation," said Hilliard Lackey, "Payback '88" national coordinator and director of alumni affairs at Jackson State University, Jackson, Miss.

Honorary co-chairmen for 1988 are JSU graduate Eddie Payton and Tennessee State University alumnus Nolan Smith. Both professional football careers included stints with the Minnesota Vikings and the Kansas City Chiefs. Smith played with the Kansas City Chiefs.

"Both Eddie and Nolan are loyal alumni and see similarities in their roles as honorary co-chairmen of "Payback '88." These guys returned kicks for a living. We want the alumni to return money to their alma maters during the current football season," said Lackey.

"Since the average kick-off return is 25 yards, we are asking graduates and former students to make an average return of \$25," said Payton.

"By giving a minimum of \$25, graduates will help offset the financial shortfall that black colleges across the nation are experiencing," Smith said.

"Payback '88" ends on Nov. 26 when the amount of funds raised will be announced at halftime of the Grambling State University and Southern University Bayou Classic football game in the New Orleans Superdome.

## Program For Newspaper Careers

Minorities interested in careers as newspaper reporters, photographers or copy editors may have the opportunity to participate in a paid training program through METPRO, sponsored by the Times Mirror Co.

METPRO (Minority Editorial Training Program) is a two-year internship that combines classroom training with practical experience in reporting, editing and photography. Reporters and photographers train at the Los Angeles Times; copy editors train at Newsday.

The program is open to Blacks, Latinos, Asian-Americans and Native Americans. No experience is required, although applicants must demonstrate excellent written and verbal skills. A college degree is preferred.

The program begins each June with trainees selected from around the country. After the first year, trainees are placed in jobs Times Mirror papers like the Baltimore Sun, the Hartford Courant, Newsday and the Los Angeles Times.

The deadline to apply is Jan. 1. Information and applications are available by writing METPRO/Reporting Director, the Los Angeles Times, Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles, Calif. 90053, or calling 1-800-LA-TIMES, ext. 74487. Those interested in copy editing should write to METPRO/Editing Director, Newsday, 235 Pincelawn Rd., Melville, N.Y. 11747, (516) 454-3087.

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