

Aimed at high school students

Program to recruit blacks



Photo by Dave Wexler

Joeyl Jones

By GINNY BENTZ
Collegian Senior Reporter

A new program designed to attract highly qualified black students into the University system is ready to start recruiting.

According to Joeyl E. Jones, newly appointed recruiter for the Black Scholars Program, the idea of recruiting black students at the high school level has been around for some time, and now it's just a matter of putting the gears into motion.

Jones said the program is based on the University's commitment to making the black population on campus proportionate to the black population in the state. "This is what we hope to do," she said. "I don't know if we can cover all that."

Traveling to high schools around the state, Jones will participate in college nights and local banquets, consult guidance counselors and community leaders, and talk with students in order to stimulate an interest in Penn State.

She explained the University is competing with Ivy League schools. "It's hard to get black students to come to Penn State because of the location; it's a very isolated area, and has a very small black community."

For now the recruiting process will be aimed at graduating seniors, although it will actually start with promising students in their sophomore year in the hope Penn State will be their choice after graduation.

"I don't view this as one person's job," Jones said, adding she wanted to involve the whole University community in the project. "I would hope to solicit support from faculty," she said, "and it's highly likely that we'll be forming an advisory committee."

As the Black Scholars Program flourishes, Jones said, she hopes to include in it some form of recognition for highly qualified black students on campus now, possibly by declaring them members of the program.

"Black scholars on campus often are confused with EOP students," Jones said. She added one of the reasons for the new program is to balance out the image of EOP on campus, and make the point that there are many qualified blacks in the state.

Eventually Jones said she expects to recruit out-of-state black students also. "It's possible scholarship funds will be available to students who meet our guidelines," she said. Present guidelines require that the students meet regular admissions qualifications.

Jones, who came to the University Jan. 15, is a graduate of the University of Oregon in sociology with graduate study at Stanford University. She was also a member of the University of Oregon Upward Bound Advisory Board and the Capital District Psychiatric Center Advisory Board in Albany.

She served as VISTA coordinator in the Lane County Youth Project, Eugene, Ore., in the economic opportunity program, and was adviser to an educational and vocational training program for young women in Oregon.

Holding offices as part-time research assistant at Stanford University and public health social work assistant for the New York State Department of Health are also among her qualifications.

Since coming to the University, Jones has been reading and learning about the admissions office, and said she expects to begin recruiting in about a month.

"I'm very optimistic that we can have a successful program," she said.

Weather

Occasional rain today, possibly heavy at times, high 46. Mostly cloudy and cold tonight, low 36. Mostly cloudy tomorrow, high 38.