

VISION

A person with a vision is destined for greatness.

COLLEGE of EDUCATION

African American Student Newsletter



New President; New Changes for Education in America

By Deidre Yancey, Academic Advisor



The election of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States ushered in a new sense of change and a fresh start for many Americans. Among the areas that the presidency will impact are major reforms in America's education system.

During his campaign for presidency, one of the pledges that President Obama made was to reform No Child Left Behind (NCLB), a program instituted by the Bush administration. Many have criticized NCLB, asserting that rather than support low-performing schools, it punishes them. Under the current system, if a school fails to make Adequate Yearly Progress, it loses its Title I funding by the government. Obama hopes to overhaul and reform the NCLB law, providing better funding and improving assessment and accountability.

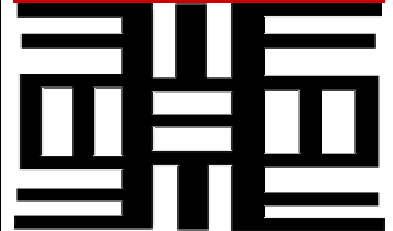
President Obama also recognizes that retaining and supporting quality teachers is a problem. In an effort to "recruit, prepare, retain, and reward America's teachers", Obama plans to expand and create *Teacher Service Scholarships*, expand mentoring programs for new teachers, create more incentives for teacher collaboration (such as paid planning time), and offer more opportunities for professional growth and special knowledge/additional skills (such as bilingual abilities).

Finally, President Obama hopes to address the affordability of higher education, noting that the average college graduate leaves college with over \$19,000 in debt. He plans to create the American Opportunity Tax Credit, ensuring that for most Americans, the first \$4000 of college is completely free. The credit will also cover two-thirds of the tuition costs at the average public university, and make community college tuition completely free for most students. To take advantage of the credit, students will be required to complete 100 hours of community service. He also hopes to eliminate the current federal financial aid application process – FAFSA – and instead, allow families to apply by simply checking a box on their tax form that would authorize their tax information to be used for tabulating federal financial aid eligibility.

President Obama has appointed Arne Duncan as his Secretary of Education. A former co-captain of the Harvard basketball team, Duncan spent seven years as the chief executive of the Chicago Public Schools System, the nation's third-largest school district. Duncan is well known for addressing issues such as raising teacher quality and changing failing schools.

For more information about President Barack Obama's platform on education, visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/education/>.

Feb/Mar 2009



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Upcoming Dates

Black History Month Lecture

Monday, Feb 16 at 5:30pm

Poe Hall, Room 216

AAASE Movie & Discussion of "School Daze" by Spike Lee

Tues, Feb 17 at 6pm, FYC 104

Spring Break: Mar 2-6

Last Day to Drop a Class or Change to Credit Only:

Wednesday, Mar 11

Registration for Fall/Summer courses begins Mar 17. See your advisor for information.

Spring Holiday; No classes:

Friday, April 10

Spring Commencement:

Saturday, May 9

Rewriting the Books

By Devin Smith, Freshman, Education Undeclared



“Yes we can!” has developed a new meaning since the election of our nation’s first African American president. Never before has hope been personified as it is now through Barack Obama. Today there is a more firm sense of confidence that we indeed can, seeing Obama as evidence. This historic election has changed the fabric of our nation, particularly for those to whom President Obama has become the biggest role model—the young black male.

As a young black male, as well as a future educator, it seems only fitting that I would look at Obama’s presidency with regard to its effect on education. For the longest time, many black youths have had the perception that if you are educated, speak properly, or are even remotely interested in something educational, you’re “acting white.” I can personally recall those experiences. As an advocate for education, it bothers me that anyone would think that education, which is the doorway to unlimited opportunity, is not cool or is only for certain groups. As discouraging as these ideals are, I find solace in the election of Obama.

The thing that made Obama such a different candidate is his ability to relate to so many people. His mass appeal, I hope, will change the misguided minds of the youth that I spoke of before. Obama, the young, charismatic, funny, intelligent, powerful black man has already changed the outlook of much of America. His ability to relate across the board, I’m sure will reach the black youth and show them just what education can do for them and remind them that they can be intelligent *and* cool at the same time. Maybe he can help them realize that it’s okay to be smart; and one day, if we actively pursue and value the privilege of education, just as Obama has, we can all have a part in re-writing the history books.

AAASE Update

By Iwinosa Idahor, Senior, Middle Grades Language Arts



Happy New Year! As we enter the second month of the new year, AAASE is back to work once again. This semester will prove to be a busy, yet enjoyable one for AAASE.

During this semester, AAASE will focus mainly on our Book Drive. AAASE has decided to establish a multipurpose library at the Washington Boys & Girls Club of Raleigh, NC. This library will serve as an accessible location for the surrounding community and its students to have quality and beneficial resources right at their fingertips. Potentially, this library will help to improve literacy among disadvantaged students, especially minority youth, by encouraging students to appreciate literature and fostering relationships within the community. In order for this project to be a success, it will have to become a community effort. We are in need of books (quality and in good shape) and “library” furniture (easy chairs, beanbags, lamps, etc.)

As we productively work to establish this library, we will also be preparing for our participation in the 2009 Pan-African Festival in March. We will incorporate students from the local community, NC State students and African American history and culture, to create the ultimate learning experience. As we continue to grow, we thank you for your continued support and dedication to AAASE. As future educators and student advocates, we have realized that our true success comes from consistent and enthusiastic students, faculty/staff and community members. Although AAASE will be working hard this semester, we do not forget to have a little fun, so join us at one of our General Body meetings, socials or events! If you have any questions or suggestions, we encourage you to contact us at ncsu.aaase@yahoo.com.



AAASE VP Henry Harden accepts award from Washington Boys & Girls Club Education Director, Ashlea Hitchcock. The group was honored for their mentoring work with middle school students.

PERSPECTIVES: Funding a Dream that's Bigger than You!

By Michelle Harris, Senior, Middle Grades Language Arts

Growing up in a family where love was abundant but funds were not, I never dreamed that I would ever be able to travel to exotic places and see things that most people only read about in books. I work 20 hours a week, I have 16 credit hours, I tutor, and I am active in several organizations so I didn't even think that I would have the time to even think about traveling. But, when I heard about the spring break trip to Ghana, I knew that it was time to trust God to do the impossible. I wanted to do this for myself as well as the future middle school students I would be teaching. I wanted to tell them about the beauty of Africa.



I went to the Study Abroad Office and got the information about the program and a few weeks later attended an info session. After hearing that the trip would cost about \$5,000.00 in all (including program cost, passport, plane ticket, visa, etc.), I must admit that I was a little discouraged, but I immediately went home and drafted a letter and a cost sheet to raise funds for my trip.

I contacted local churches, businesses (public and private) and members of the faculty and staff here at State. I called everyone I could think of to help me in my endeavors. By the time I got ready to fill out the Study Abroad application, I had already raised almost \$1,000.00! After the application was processed, I got news that I was awarded \$2,000.00! I was at a loss for words. In the months that followed, I found paid opportunities to speak to the youth at area churches and I put all of that money toward my trip. Finally, last month I received a large contribution from one of the football players for the Baltimore Ravens. God had answered my prayers.

As I sit here waiting for my acceptance letter into the Ghana 2009 spring break study abroad program, I write this article for every person who works hard to make it through school and believes it is worth it. For every person that believes that the impossible is possible, remember the words of our President Barack Obama, "Yes WE CAN!"

I would like to extend a special thank you to Carrie McLean (First Year College), Dr. Keith Powell (AA Cultural Center), Dr. Carol Pope (CED), Mrs. Allison Mitchall (CED), Jason Brown (Baltimore Ravens), Pastor John Miles and anyone else who gave an encouraging word, thought, pray, or contribution. You hold a special place in my heart!

Studying in the Virgin Islands through National Student Exchange

By Kendra Collins, Senior, Education General Studies



During the fall semester of 2008, I had the opportunity to experience college life at a different university. I was a participant in the **National Student Exchange Program (NSE)** and took classes at the University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas.

The National Student Exchange Program allows students from all around the nation to enroll at a different university and experience college life outside of their home state. The program gave me the opportunity to learn a new culture, meet new people and gain a new respect for student life. I took regular classes that would count towards my major just as I would if I was taking them at NC State. I joined the UVI Sports Committee and the Dance and Step Squad while I was at the University so that I would have something fun and exciting to do. I also spent much of my extra time relaxing on the beach. Conveniently, the school was just a short walk away from those beautiful Caribbean waters. I met friends that I will keep for a lifetime and I wouldn't change my experience for anything in the world. I most certainly recommend that everyone consider taking advantage of the NSE program. I had the time of my life and I will cherish that experience forever!

For more info about National Student Exchange, visit [www.http://www7.acs.ncsu.edu/nse/](http://www7.acs.ncsu.edu/nse/). You can exchange at more than 190 campuses throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada and Hawaii at in-state tuition rates.

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**LEAD &
SERVE**

“Change”

By Jeff Leonard, Program Assistant

*From “Four score and seven years ago” to “I have a dream,”
Change has been a catalyst for dreamers, leaders
and citizens alike.*

*And in a time when the waters of life are troubled,
The winds of change have begun to blow once more.*

*Sometimes change can happen in a moment's notice,
Sometimes it requires weeks, months and even years.
Sometimes change can appear to be unobtainable,
But in all cases, change is driven by the spirit and desire of those
who believe.*

*Yes, clouds may abound and cover our sunny skies,
But we must remember that the sun does not
cease to shine.*

*Soon, this too shall pass and the clouds will begin to break,
And the light shall once again shine upon us all.*

*The American dream is still alive, and her spirit lives,
From North to South, East to West, and sea to shining sea.
The winds of change are upon us, can you feel them?
And together, we shall overcome.*

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