Student job program is being continued

WASHINGTON — The U. S. Labor Department's Work Experience and Career Exploration Programs (WECEP), conducted experimentally since 1969, will be continued on a permanent basis, assistant secretary for employment standards Bernard E. DeLury has announced.

WECEP provides for a variation in the Child Labor Regulations to permit minors between 14 and 16 years old to work and also attend school in this school-supervised and school-administered program.

DeLury said the educational performance of WECEP students in the experimental program improved significantly, along with school attendance, and there was also improvement in attitudes both in school and at work.

"These positive results," he said, after five years of the program on an experimental basis are sufficient to warrant an extension of the program on a permanent basis, of course "with the proper safe guards necessary to prevent absences."

Regulations governing extension of the program were published in the Federal Register, Sept. 4.

They provide for a continuing study of WECEP to be made to determine whether or not employment of student-workers displaces regular employes of a participating establishment, and whether or not participation in the program has a long range effect on educational achievement.

"Employment of participants must not have the effect on displacing a worker employed in the establishment of the employer," DeLury said, and this requirement is specified in the new regulations.

The administrator, Wage and Hour Division, Employment Standards Administration, will coordinate with the commissioner of Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare on effective administration of the program.

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Participation in the program by any state is voluntary. State educational agencies may secure approval for programs by application to the Wage and Hour Administrator.

Any student aged 14 or 15 years identified by local school authorities as being able to benefit from the program is eligible to participate.

Students receive school credits for both in-school related instruction and on-the-job experience.

Time will be allotted for the required classroom instruction in those subjects necessary for graduation under the state's standards and regularly scheduled classroom periods of instruction devoted to job-related and to employability skill instruction.

The students will not be permitted to work in manufacturing, mining or hazardous occupations. They may work not more than 23 hours in any week when school is in session, and not more than three hours in any day when school is in session.

Any portion of their work, however, may be during school hours.

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Jobs increasing in broadcasting

By Benjamin Hooks
Federal Communications Commissioner

BENJAMIN L. HOOKS

WASHINGTON — I am often asked the question: "What is the real situation in terms of black employment in and ownership of properties in the communications industry, particularly in broadcasting?"

Let me say at the outset; yes, there are obstacles to increased and better employment of blacks in the industry and their ownership of broadcast properties. But there are opportunities as well.

At the Federal communications Commission, there are a number of skilled job openings from time to time. The most sought after professionals are lawyers and engineers. But until I came aboard July 5, 1972, as the first black commissioner in the history of the FCC, there were only two black lawyers out of a total of more than 200, and only three or four black engineers.

Today, there are 17 minority lawyers and more than 20 engineers of color. This is a small start, to be sure, but the FCC is now committed to employment of black professionals and we shall go forward.

In the industries we regulate — TV and radio, telephone, satellites, cable, specialized common carriers — there is an on-going need of employees possessing professional skills: engineers, radio and TV technicians of all kinds, economists, accountants, management, sales personnel, on-air personalities, electricians, public information specialists, etc.

At the FCC, jobs that range from clerks, stenographers to broadcast analysts, personnel officials, economists, and of course, lawyers and engineers, await those bright, determined and ambitious young people who want to make a career with our federal regulatory agency.

It is not enough these days to say: "I'm black, so my chances are limited in the job market because of institutional and overtly expressed racism." Racism, institutional or otherwise, is there. But blacks everywhere are challenging it and winning.

Look at current TV programming. A few years ago there were few black performers in drama, comedy or commercial news presentations. Today, although you may quarrel with the quality of such programming, you are forced to admit we are certainly a lot more visible in a lot more positive situations than before.

Not long ago, Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett, president of the National Newspaper Publishers' Association, noted there were "more black youths in institutions of higher learning than in institutions of higher learning in Great Britain with 55 million population." National Education Association figures from last year of 814,000 bear him out.

Some of these ambitious young students are enrolled in schools of communications in Atlanta (Clark College), in Jefferson City, Mo. (Lincoln University), and Washington, D. C. (Howard University), to name a few. Others are enrolled at leading white schools of communications.

By the way, broadcasting has more than 11 per cent minority employment, presently, compared to the print media where blacks in editorial positions in the metropolitan newspapers are less than two per cent.

For these young people who may aspire to ownership of radio and TV, there are presently about 40 black radio licensees of more than 7,000. radio stations in this country, although there are about 200 radio stations which emphasize black programming. Likewise blacks own only five of the 900 TV stations in this country, only three of which are on the air at present. Two of these are in the Virgin Islands.

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The cost of ownership of such properties in viable (top 50-100) markets in this inflated period is almost prohibitive. In putting together financial "packages" to purchase a broadcasting property, or to acquire a cablecasting unit, the black prospective buyer should be careful that what he is buying is not overpriced.

In closing, I remain ever the optimist. There are yet obstacles to black entry to the powerful broadcasting media, yes; but there are opportunities, as well.

Bennett offering

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Much study has gone into the variety of ways a student can advance through undergraduate studies.

Bennett College's Chelsea Tipton, dean of the college, announced that five new advancement options are being offered.

These options include accelerated study options, off-campus projects for academic credit, independent study opportunities and the scholar program.

The accelerated study option enables students to complete course work outside of the classroom.

Students who will be constantly evaluated may take two courses in the time traditionally required to complete one.

External projects are being encouraged for advanced students who may elect to study at other institutions, to undertake guided research or to participate in special programs.

The independent study option seeks to increase flexibility within the curriculum and to encourage more intellectual curiosity. With the support of a faculty sponsor, students may explore areas of greater personal interest.

The scholar program is restricted to high ability students who seek independent study opportunities. Participants may select any course of study which suits her professional goals. The accelerated program allows for early graduation.

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