1986

Minority Focus Group Meeting; Series II; File 71

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"nobody's helped us" he said. In contrast to the past, a majority of
now comes in the form of repayable
cares rather than outright grants. "Mi-
ity kids are more than just recipients.
summers themselves with more than in-
and white students," he said. College officials frequently expres-
s their awareness to arrange financi-
al aid packages for talented poor stu-
dents, but an increasing numbers of students may go.
"The guidance counselors tell us
of financial aid and other help, but
now nobody's ever helped us be-
fore," said Stacey Willis, a 16-year-old
at Lafayette High School in Buf-
s who is planning to enter the Army
year. "Once you start having
these numbers, like the numbers, most of us just say forget it.
Now a 16-year-old student is con-
considerate shift in the political and so-
cial climates.
Clifford R. Wharton, Jr., who re-
ently resigned as Chancellor of the
niversity of New York, said, "Many of our fellow citizens seem to
believe that the need for affirmative
acts is past.
Raised "Expectations Levels"
The Rev. Jesse Jackson, a co-spon- the Democratic nomination for
1988, attributed the declin-
ing minority presence in part to "the
ork of pressure from the Reagan
ouse House for peaks and roses.
C. but he predicted that recent Sup-
t Court decisions upholding all
racism programs, combined
reactions to the recent racial dis-
urrances, would encourage a different
ame.
The effect has been that expecta-
tions levels have become raised," he said.
"People are again talking about the
chance of minority kids, but their pro-
tions in their total populations
agement among minority students also be a "reversal"
many affirmative action admissions, said Jerry J. Robinson, dean of the
College of Education at Georgia State
in Atlanta.
Programs have "opened up jobs
which might not have been available" in graduating minority stu-
dents, he said, adding, "They see
friends getting jobs and making at
least minimum wage and they want to
out and get them too, even a job rather
than continuing their education."
Another contributing factor, sug-
gested Mr. Wilson, was the emergence
of the first post-civil rights generation
on college campuses.
"For the average sophomore, born
the year Martin Luther King, Jr. was
assassinated," he said, "everybody
that happened prior to the civil rights
movement is ancient history."
Peer pressure among minority
not help the minority
in at least one college a
kinds of financial aid packages to
that when they apply they plan to
juggle. "They tell me it's going
to be too long and I couldn't
it. But my mother told me, 'Don't be
nobody tell you what you can't do. Just
do it."
Jerbig Hiring Pays Off
Although many colleges and univer-
sities, including many of the most so-
lective ones, have increased efforts to
minority students, they have
been criticized as not doing enough.
"Blacks are admitted here because
the laws have changed," said Hayds R.
, associate dean of arts and
nences at the University of North
an at Chapel Hill. "The laws
have changed, but the minds haven't.
The university is not committed to in-
ecreasing black enrollment.
Some colleges, however, have found
that sustained recruiting pays off.
'state University in Connecticut, which has held telethons and special
entled to 8 percent before the
tion has increased to 18 percent in 1984,
more than 19 percent for this year's
class. Student officials have increased from 1.6 percent to 42 percent
per cent over the same period. The
centage of blacks on the faculty has
also increased, from 3.3 percent to 5.3
percent, over the last decade.
'state is at a point where it
ould enroll a significant number of mi-
ity students without making major
ances in its total populations,
administration," said Mr. Wharton.
An effective way to recruit minority
students visit Wesleyan, they
see minority students, and then
think this is a place where they
wouldn't have to be Trailblazers."
But another effective recruiter is the
military, which not only advertises
widely but sends representatives to
other schools in the country. "The
charm of the military," he said, "is
considering the years you have to
get the degree."

College officials say that one fre-
quent overlooked aspect of the prob-
remains high, as around 30 percent
for this year's freshmen, for those entering in 1982.
"We're getting the reputation
of being just admitting minority
students and kicking them out the back door as
timely as possible," said Dean Flansworth.

Minority college students in pre-
dominantly white colleges also say
they have formidable social pressures.
"If you hang around black students,
people see you as an outcast," said Rich-
and Gamble, a junior economics major
the University of Chicago. "But if
you hang around white students, then
black friends say, 'You forget
where you came from' or 'You think
you're white now.'"

Martha Low Meledes, a junior
psychology major at the University of
 flammonia, graduated from a pre-
dominantly Mexican-American high
in El Paso, found the adjustment
difficult. "I've had to leave behind a
part of my culture to succeed here,"
said.

Stacey Willis and Tamara McMillan, seniors at Lafayette High School in
Buffalo. He plans to join the Army, and she plans to go to college.

The New York Times

Lee Smith "97, a senior at McDo-
ugh High School in New Orleans, has
enrolled in the Army because he did not
want the "heavy burden" of college on
family. "I feel like the military will
lead me to a lot of experiences," he said.
He said he also decided to go to work at a fast-food
restaurant where two minority managers had de-
presses in business administration. "Things should be a little better," he said, "considering the years you have
to go get the degree."

Jane McMillan, a guidance counselor
Lafayette High School in Rochester.
"Now it has lost that stigma."

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Enrollment of Minorities

By EDWARD B. FIXKE

Two decades after colleges and universities began opening their doors to substantial numbers of minority students, the effort to diversify American higher education appears to have stagnated. The latest Federal figures show that blacks have a smaller presence on American campuses than they did two years ago, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of all undergraduates.

Two decades after colleges and universities began opening their doors to substantial numbers of minority students, the effort to diversify American higher education appears to have stagnated. The latest Federal figures show that blacks have a smaller presence on American campuses than they did two years ago, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of all undergraduates.

The enrollment of Hispanic students, although rising slightly, lags far behind their overall representation in the population.

"After a period in which minorities were courted and welcomed, disaffection has now set in on both sides," said Donald Stowell, former president of Smith College in Massachusetts, a black college for women.

The percentage of all students that are minorities has now stagnated. In 1976, when the Civil Rights Act was passed, 5.5 percent of all students were black, Asian, or Hispanic. By 1984, the figure had risen to 8.9 percent, but this increase has now leveled off, with little change since 1982.

In the 1970's and 1980's, federal student aid money was reversed. "The minority dropout rate is a major problem," said Mr. Wilson. "But even if you look at minority students who graduate from high school, the gap between the college-going rate of blacks and whites is widening." The Federal government has been increasing its aid to minority students, but the gap has not narrowed.

Minority students are less well prepared for college. A recent Scholastic Aptitude Test report showed that 40 percent of minority students had scores below 400, compared with 25 percent of white students.

One factor in the declining number of black and Hispanic students in the college pipeline is the increasing cost of college, which for many has become a major barrier to college-going.

"You think about the poverty line that's now being drawn around $11,000, which means that one-third of all black families are in poverty," said James E. Blackwell, a professor of sociology at the University of Massachusetts in Boston. "This means that there are a huge number of people who don't have the money to go to college." For many minority students, the problem has been compounded by a substantial decline in federal student assistance. A Congressional study last year concluded that in terms of 1986 buying power, Federal grants and scholarships fell from $13 billion in the 1970 academic year to $0 billion in 1986, a drop of 33 percent.

One of the main factors in the stagnation of minority enrollment is the rising tuition, which for many minority students has made college unaffordable.

The latest enrollment figures show that minorities are less well represented than whites in the nation's top universities. In 1985, 1,032,000 blacks made up 9.4 percent of the total, in 1986, 7.5 percent.

Trends of the 1970's Reversed

Statistics from the Census Bureau show a similar pattern. Last fall the bureau reported that black enrollment peaked in 1981 at 1,133,000 students and by 1985 was down to 949,000. Hispanics were less well represented, with 603,000 in 1981 and 503,000 in 1985.

The figures show that the growth in minority enrollment has been reversed. In 1976, 5.5 percent of all students were minorities. By 1984, the percentage had risen to 8.9 percent, but it has since fluctuated around 8.5 percent.

In 1976, African-Americans were more than double the percentage of white students. In 1984, the percentage was more than triple the percentage of white students. In 1985, the percentage was less than double the percentage of white students.

The figures also show that the percentage of minority students in the nation's top universities has been declining. In 1976, 15.8 percent of all students were minorities. By 1984, the percentage had risen to 21 percent, but it has since dropped to 19.5 percent.

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