



Daily Update

Blacks In Government 30th Annual National Training Conference
Volume 2 – August 12, 2008

“Rising Above the Storm: Navigating New Challenges with High Professional Competency and Dedication to Public Service”

Welcome!

Ms. Melinda Shelton, Professor, Mass Communications Department, Xavier University, New Orleans, Louisiana and Ms. Teniesha Biagas, Senior, Mass Communication Department, Xavier University, New Orleans, Louisiana.

They are volunteering their time and expertise to the National Communication and Public Relations Committee (NTC). They will be assisting in all activities and responsibilities of the committee during the NTC.

Cash Flow to Wealth
Workshop Presenter
Eric Labat, Labat Consulting Group

Not enough cash at the end of the month? Tired of paying high taxes? Are gas prices too high, putting a cramp in your lifestyle? Are those bills piling up and you see yourself “drowning in debt”? Are you making enough money? Want to invest more? Do you want to increase your cash flow?

Now that I have your attention...Remember the credit card company that ended its commercial with “what’s in your wallet?” This eye-opening workshop really focuses on not what’s only in your wallet, but really concentrates on what’s in your economy. Did you know you have more control of your own economy than your community’s, the nation’s and the global economies?

The workshop focused on increasing personal cash flow and turning it into wealth. “Financial success is simply having enough cash flow to support one’s chosen lifestyle.” Unfortunately, many do not attain financial success due to the following obstacles: less than ideal financial education, limited income, high taxes and debt. How you’re positioned has a direct impact on your cash flow. Not to worry, the *Cash Flow to Wealth System* exists to change your frustrating finances into financial success.

George Clason, author of “*The Richest Man in Babylon*” said that money is plentiful for those who understand the simple laws, which govern its

acquisition. The workshop focuses on the concept of turning increased cash flow into wealth with attainable steps. Wall Street has been using the concept of cash, invested in assets, generate cash. This is an ongoing principle. Many individuals might not have enough cash flow, after paying bills, to have enough to invest to get them to their financial destination. This financial destination, verified by the attendees, is not based on the age of the individual, but rather than their number (i.e., the monetary value of their accumulated assets that they determine).

A four-step strategy presents attendees an opportunity to:

- 1.) Maximize cash flow by correcting their withholding,
- 2.) Maximize cash flow by minimizing taxes,
- 3.) Maximize cash flow by eliminating debt and
- 4.) Maximize cash flow and wealth by investing.

This is a one-way workshop where the presenter talks through the entire session. It is interactive, providing attendees an opportunity to really learn something new about their economy and how they can make changes to positively impact, financially.

We do what we do based on our level of knowledge. If you want to become a doctor, you have to get some knowledge specific to the medical field. If you want to be a culinary arts specialist, you have to specialize in that knowledge. So, if you want to be wealthy, change your mindset, get some knowledge and have

an action plan in order to get to your financial destination.

For additional workshops, check out the daily workshop updates for times and locations.

“By wisdom is a house build, by understanding is it made firm; And by knowledge are its rooms filled with every precious and pleasing possession.”

~Proverbs 24:3-4

CDC Agency Forum

Reported by Ms. Miriam Dugger, Mr. Hugh Gardner and Ms. Shirley Holmes

The CDC Forum opened with greetings from the National President, **Ms. Darlene H. Young**. As President Young walked in the room, it lit up with smiles. She made us proud. President Young presented an award to **Mr. Carlton Duncan**, CDC Deputy Chief Operating Officer for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Corporate Membership.

Mr. Duncan smoothly began welcoming the attendees to the forum and assured them of CDC’s support of training, diversity and opportunity. This is very similar to Blacks In Government’s goals of Equity, Excellence and Opportunity.

Diversity

As a member of the team of presenters and permanent CDC staff, **Dr. James Nelson**, CDC’s Diversity Director explained the agency’s diversity effort.

- **“Inclusion”** was his first point. He defined the meaning of inclusion, which meant being a part of involvement at all levels.
- **“Education”** was his second point. Dr. Nelson made attendees aware of a list of courses that can be found on the diversity website.

These courses can help attendees prepare themselves for inclusion. “Prepare for war in times of peace.” Take courses in order to be ready when your inclusion opportunity comes.

Telecommuting

(“Work is not where to go but what you do”)

Ms. Allison Tanner, CDC Executive Officer, Office of Chief Operating Officer, provided informative information on telecommuting opportunity.

- She explained the telecommuting procedures to the attendees.
- She informed the attendees of a telecommuting mandate that was passed in 2008.
- She explained the application procedure.

Telecommuting is viewed as cost effective for the agency as well as the employee. Justification for rejections must be in writing by the perspective manager and/or supervisor. Rejections are reviewed by Ms. Tanner’s office.

Ms. Anne-Renee Heningburg, Lead Public Health Advisor, Global Immunization Division provided information on opportunities in global health careers. The CDC seeks qualified applicants for overseas programs in the following areas:

Epidemiologists
Medical Officers (Physicians)
Public Health Advisors (Program Managers)
Health Scientists (Laboratories)

and other specialties; skills needed are overseas experience, post-graduate education (preferred – Masters of Doctorate), foreign language skills (preferred), strong communications skills (written and oral) and excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to work in teams and independently.

Mr. Terrance Manning, President, CDC/ATSDR Local AFGE 2883, gave an overview of the union, its focus and the meaning of the word union. It was stressed to the attendees to take advantage of the services provided.

CDC/ATSDR Chapter of Blacks In Government President **F. Hugh Gardner** gave closing remarks.

“The Devil Wears Prada ., But Should You?”

Workshop Presenter – Donna Donna Gilbert

Reported by Ms. Melinda Shelton

Scenario, Part 1: You’re in the mall and pass a shoe store with an enticing window display. Center stage is a stunning pair of shoes that would be a gem in your shoe collection. So what do you do? Act on impulse or really think before buying?

Scenario, Part 2: The stunning pair of shoes costs \$600.

It’s a no-brainer, isn’t it?

“Whether you know it or not, you go through a process when you’re solving a problem or making a decision, even when buying shoes and especially when buying an expensive pair” presenter Donna Gilbert told her lively audience during a Tuesday morning workshop on “Making Decisions or Solving Problems: Maximizing Your Effectiveness.”

While some women in the audience said buying the shoes should be okay, other participants pondered the impact spending \$600 on shoes could have on the family budget. Although every person’s situation is different, the audience agreed on one point: Think before you act.

Gilbert said there are six basic steps in the problem solving/decision making model:

1. Size up the situation. This begins with identifying “the real” issues involved in a problem. What is the nature of the problem? What impact does or will it have and on whom? What are the facts? If money is involved, how much and where will it come from? What are the short- and long-term outcomes? What are the risks?
2. Identify contingencies. Gilbert said this involves exploring options, looking for viable alternatives, and prioritizing possibilities. “This is where ‘Murphy’s Law’ comes in,” Gilbert said. “Things that can go wrong, do go wrong, so have different options available.”
3. Determine objectives. Choose measurable targets based on the situation and contingencies. Objectives should be used to monitor progress and establish priorities. Objectives should be reasonable and achievable.
4. Identify needed resources. What do you need? Where will you get them? How long will it take? Are there special requirements? What can other agencies offer? “In a nutshell, what people, funds, and equipment are involved?” Gilbert explained.
5. Build a plan. Once you have sized up the situation, identified contingencies, determined objectives, and identified needed

resources, then develop a plan. “Think about who is affected and how. Who will do what and by when? And if your first plan won’t or doesn’t work, make sure you have multiple options,” Gilbert explained. In other words, if Plan A doesn’t work, make sure you have a Plan B.

6. Take action. Taking action is a revolving process that includes implementing the plan, checking on its outcomes, and adjusting as needed. “Are you on target or not? Is everything going according to your plan? As expected? If not, then you make the necessary adjustments to get the outcome you intend,” Gilbert said.

All of these steps take on additional urgency when crisis decision-making is involved, added Gilbert, who is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) employee. A crisis situation is frequently emotionally charged, lacks clarity, and can present a reactive versus proactive climate.

“In a crisis situation, you need to think about effective communication, teamwork. Brainstorm, share ideas, open the dialogue,” Gilbert explained. “Identify the REAL issues. Share mistakes and lessons learned. Get beyond the tunnel vision.”

So what about that \$600 pair of Prada the Devil has written your name on?

Some people suggested walking on and not busting the family’s budget. Others suggested finding a less expensive but still attractive pair. Someone said just buy them and let go of the guilt.

One participant, a male, suggested buying a pair of shoes at Payless.

“Oh, no, that’s NOT an option,” quipped a female counterpart, and the audience erupted into laughter.

Announcements

HOME TOWN JOURNAL

The Home Town Journal is a personal synopsis of the activities and events of the conference attendee's experience at the 2008 Blacks in Government National Training Conference. Anyone interested in creating their own personal Home Town Journal, should report to Room 289.

BIG 2008 National Health Awareness Program

Health Forum

Wednesday, August 13, 2008
8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Part I: Addressing the Health Disparities in the Minority Community

8:30 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
Ernest N. Morial Convention Center Level 2 Room 291

Part II: Environmental Health Issues in the Minority Community (Invitational only)

12:00 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.
Convention Center Room 286-287
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Marian Johnson-Thompson

Part III: Stepping-for-Health Project Recognitions Reception

2:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.
Convention Center Room 291

BIG 2008 Health Screenings and Exhibits –Health Fair

10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Monday through Friday, August 11-15, 2008
New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center

Health Workshops:

Monday through Friday, August 11-15, 2008
Potential topics: Health Awareness; Mental Health; Diabetes; HIV/AIDS; Healthy Eating Habits; Physical Fitness; Cardiovascular Diseases; Cancer; Nutrition; Lupus; Stress Management; Women and Heart Diseases

Daily Update articles should be submitted no later than 6:00 p.m. each day. Please have your article typed and ready for download. Articles should be submitted to the Press Room, Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, Room 289.

The National Communications and Public Relations Committee



Visit the BIG Store located in the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center on Level 1

FEEDBACK!

We need and want your input! Your feedback is very important in planning future national training conferences. Help us plan, improve and maintain a high quality conference by completing the Overall Conference Evaluation form located in the back of your souvenir book. Please take a few minutes to stop by the Evaluations tables located on Level 1 of the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

AND

Speak to a Roving Reporter or visit the **Press Room**, in **Room 289, Ernest N. Morial Convention Center**, to have