



AN ALLIANCE OF PARTNERS DEDICATED
TO THE 21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE

The Pioneer Pages



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Alliance Partners: DuPont • NASA-SEMAA • NMUSA • Pioneer Hi-bred International • SECME, Inc.

Inaugural Pioneer Leadership Academy a Grand Success, Alliance Partners Pleased

Judson E. “Jeb” Bennett, Director of the National Museum of the U.S. Army and an Alliance Partner, sums it up this way: “The first-ever Pioneer Student Leadership Academy hit a home-run this summer.” As proof, corporate sponsors have indicated a willingness to continue their sponsorship; interns are asking to come back next year; and presenters have given a thumbs-up to a repeat appearance.

Brandon Davis of SECME and COL (Ret.) Jim Paige of NMUSA, with support from Dr. Hortense Evans, educational consultant to SECME, put together a program that followed the lead of the SECME Summer Institute theme—“The Global Road Map to Success.” The program gave interns ample time to network and a diverse menu of learning opportunities.

As the Academy came to a close, interns presented their electronic

portfolios to corporate and Academy representatives. The event gave them the chance to meet and impress potential future employers from a variety of organizations.

“This is a great win for NMUSA,” said Bennett, who attended the portfolio presentation. “We have 46 young scholars who may someday work in the Army Museum system.”

“We want to make sure these kids get ‘the right stuff,’” said John Hairston of NASA-SEMAA. Clearly, they did.

“We’re off to a great start, but we have to plan for the road ahead,” said COL Paige, echoing the Academy goal of developing the 21st Century Workforce (see related story, page 4). He noted that next year’s Academy will be held at North Carolina A&T University.



PHOTO—TOYIA BROWN

From left, Alliance partners Jeb Bennett of NMUSA, Phyllis Buchanan of DuPont, and Dr. Yvonne Freeman of SECME at the George Washington Carver Breakfast.

Academy Sponsor Throws Out Challenge to Interns

By TAMARA ROBINSON
Pioneer Pages Staff Writer

Tom Phillips, director of community investments at Pioneer Hi-Bred, inspired an entire room of interns with stories from his own background—how someone who wasn’t always at the top of his class academically can achieve success with hard work and commitment.

“To whom much is given, much is _____,” Phillips wrote on the chalkboard, and the interns quickly filled in the blank with “required.” Sharpening the tools you have, and being sure to share your knowledge and experience with others is not simply expected, he told the interns, it is *required* of the bright students who comprise the inaugural class of the Pioneer Student Leadership Academy.

See Academy Sponsor, p. 3

Native American Shares Lesson Often Missing From History Books

By MARCOS RUIZ
Pioneer Pages Staff Writer

“You live in an Indian world and don’t even know it,” said Dr. Kim Winkelman to the Leadership Academy interns on Sunday, June 27, as he told his audience about his culture and his work with Jeb Bennett, Director of the National Museum of the United States Army (NMUSA).

Winkelman is Vice President for Instruction at Oglala Lakota College on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel. Recently, Winkelman met with Bennett to discuss recounting Native American military stories for NMUSA.

See Native American Teaches, p. 4

Interns Present Portfolios

By **SHEMEKA MCCOY**
Pioneer Pages Staff Writer

During the last week of the SECME Summer Institute, the Pioneers In Education Interns had the opportunity to present their personal electronic portfolios to COL Jim Paige and some of the many sponsors of the Academy, including DuPont, NASA-SEMAA, NMUSA, Pioneer Hi-Bred, and SECME. The presentations allowed the interns to “show off” their particular accomplishments and skills as well as display the new and innovative techniques they acquired during the Pioneer Leadership Academy and the SECME Summer Institute.

The interns prepared both print and electronic portfolios. Each sponsor will receive a DVD that includes the portfolios, along with other Academy materials, and videos created by the interns.



Tammy Robinson, a Pioneer intern who attends Wellesly College, presents her electronic portfolio.

ACADEMY SPONSOR, *From p. 1*

When Phillips asked why corporate sponsors should continue to support the Academy, the Pioneer interns eagerly shared their thoughts. “This is more than any other internship.... The students here are so diverse, with diverse interests and backgrounds. We’ve been given the chance to understand different fields and meet people going into different professions. We’ve created relationships that can last a lifetime,” said Andra Collins, one of the graduate school students in the Academy.

Phillips’ visit was eye-opening to the interns on many levels. Herb Joyner, a Call Me Mister Scholar at the Academy, said, “I learned from Mr. Phillips that although we’ve had fun, this is still a learning experience, and there are people and companies out there who have invested their money and time in us. There are individuals who expect a lot from us and want to see us do well.”

Phillips gave the interns a new understanding of what it means not to rest on one’s laurels. “Life is not only about being the best, and it certainly is not about showing everyone that you can be the best,” said Phillips. “Being a leader of tomorrow is about setting an example of what being the best looks like and helping others achieve it.”

Luncheon Honors 2004 SECME-ExxonMobil Scholars

By **RICKY LY**
Pioneer Pages Staff Writer

In the middle of the Houston afternoon on Saturday, June 27, twenty-one of the finest high school graduates in the international SECME program class of 2004 were honored at the downtown Houston Club. These SECME-ExxonMobil scholars were chosen for their outstanding academic and rigorous extracurricular activities. The scholarships are supported by the Exxon Mobil Foundation, chaired by President Ed Ahnert. Truman Bell is Program Officer for the Foundation.

The luncheon began with a special tribute by 2002 and 2003 SECME scholars from Florida and Texas. Each thanked SECME and ExxonMobil and reflected on their experiences since entering the college.

The day continued with the presentation of the 2004 scholars. Each one spoke about their unique experiences within the SECME program and their plans for the future. One of the scholars, Raychard House of South Carolina, is a former SGA president and a strong voice for the SECME cause in the state of South Carolina. “When the universities began budget cuts that left our SECME program in a crisis, we did not give up. I rallied our people to look for other means until we found supporters from the HBCU Benedict College,” remarked House.

The overall scholar award went to Manuel Antonio Rivas from Miami Coral Park Senior High School in Miami, FL. As a young boy, Manuel fled the Nicaraguan crisis in Central America to settle in Florida. Manuel has a 6.4 GPA and will attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology this fall.



PHOTO—TOYIA BROWN

The 2004 SECME/Exxon-Mobil interns, photographed at the “Teacher of the Year” banquet.

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Mind Mapping: A Study Skill That Really Works

By PEGAH JAVIDPOUR AND RICKY LY
Pioneer Pages Staff Writers

Paul Williams showed the Pioneer interns that Mind Mapping can be applied to their everyday lives. Williams began his presentation by asking the interns to list their individual deficiencies with regard to memory and reading skills. Most of the interns noted a lack of memory.

"The brain is a biological computer," said Williams. "All it needs is a personal manual that tells you how to use it."

The brain is an information processing system that is split into two distinct sides. The right side of the brain—the artistic side—deals with imagination, daydreaming and spatial concepts. The left side of brain is the logical side, and deals with words, analysis and numbers. "The trick is to maximize the ability to combine both right- and left-brain skills," Williams explained.

After telling more about the brain and how it works, Williams showed "Learning with Lana," a video showing step by step how to mind map. The technique begins with a drawing of the main subject at hand in the center of a piece of paper. From this centered image, the student can branch out with subsections to explain the main subject in more detail. The technique parallels the way that the brain works, which is by branching out with neurons and synapses.

By mixing words with pictures and colors, students use both sides of their brains more effectively. According to Williams, most humans only use one percent of their brain capacity. However, through Mind Mapping, students can easily use nearly 80 percent of their brain's memory capacity.

Since all electrical, chemical and physical reactions happen at the center of the brain cell, Mind Mapping is based on the map of the brain cell. It allows the most essential pieces of knowledge to be recorded because the brain usually remembers things through keywords and associations. This technique can also be used on a larger scale for subjects such as Chemistry, Biology, and Calculus through the Mega Mind Mapping Technique.

Williams ended the seminar by encouraging the interns to use Mind Mapping as part of their daily lives—to study for a test, organize a file cabinet or make a trip to the store. Mind Mapping can help anyone develop a longer memory!

Leadership Breakfast Celebrates '03, '04 Scholars

By CHRISTINA A. TAYLOR
Pioneer Pages Staff Writer

The Pioneers in Education held their first annual George Washington Carver Leadership Breakfast on Saturday, June 26. Special guests included Judson E. "Jeb" Bennett of the National Museum of the United States Army (NMUSA), Thomas Phillips of Pioneer Hi-bred International, Phyllis Buchanan of DuPont and John Hairston of NASA-SEMAA.

Dr. Lonnie J. Edwards, assistant superintendent of DeKalb County, GA, schools, was a featured speaker. Edwards spoke about the time he was a surprise guest on the *Sally Jessy Raphael Show*. A former student, Nancy Johnson Miller, had been trying to find Dr. Edwards in order to thank him personally for having motivated, inspired and encouraged her to believe that, even with her disability, she could do great things in life. Show staff located Edwards and brought the two together.

Both Bennett and Hairston encouraged the interns with regard to their future endeavors. At the conclusion of the breakfast, the 2004 interns presented COL Jim Paige, co-founder of the Pioneer Leadership Academy, a gift in appreciation for his hard work and dedication to the Academy.



PHOTO—TOYIA BROWN

Dr. Yvonne Freeman addresses the 2003 SECME-ExxonMobil interns and the 2004 Pioneer Leadership Academy interns at the first annual George Washington Carver Leadership Breakfast.

Pioneer Student Leadership Academy '04 in Pictures



NATIVE AMERICAN TEACHES, *From p. 1*

“Because the Army is older than the birth of your country, telling the story of the Army will tell the story of the formation of your American nation,” said Winkelman.

With a smile on his face, Winkelman explained to the interns that, “It’s okay to call us ‘Indians’ because we are referred to as such by treaties.” He went on to say that many stereotypes about Indians aren’t true. For example, despite how they are often depicted in Hollywood Westerns, Indian women have held important positions in Indian societies. “In fact,” said Winkelman, “we believe there are only two types of people—mothers and all others. Out of one woman a nation can be born. A dying or wounded soldier always cries out for his mother.” The Lakota people are unique in that their nation had woman warriors who held positions of power, strength and gentry—undoubtedly, this will be an interesting addition to NMUSA.

“Indians love science and technology because it validates so many of our oral traditions,” said Winkelman. “Indians were some of the first scientific observers, especially when it came to star knowledge.

“We, the Indian people, are a beautiful culture often misunderstood, misrepresented, and missing from history books,” Winkelman continued. “Indians have fought in every war that America has fought in, even before America was America. We even fought the United States to protect our land, culture and way of life. For so long, our story has not been told. Working with NMUSA, we have a great opportunity to correct a lot of wrongs. We are finally able to tell our story.”



PHOTO—TOYIA BROWN

Dr. Kim Winkelman, Vice President for Academic Instruction at Oglala Lakota College, Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota.

Winkelman, who has access to the oral traditions of 42 generations back, takes great pride in the effectiveness of his people’s ability to pass down information from one generation to the next—and that includes a long tradition with the U.S. military. According to Winkelman, such concepts as camouflage, attack and defense formations, and dehydrated foods all have Indian origin. He went on to explain how important Indians were—and continue to be—to the U.S. Army. For example, Indian code talkers proved invaluable in both World Wars because of their ability to communicate in indecipherable languages.

In closing, Winkelman emphasized, “There is wisdom in our elders and what they have to say.” He left his audience with an important message: “That which you experience, you value.”

The Road Ahead

By COL (RET.) JIM PAIGE

Pioneer Student Leadership Academy Co-Founder

“We are very pleased with the Pioneer Student Leadership Academy,” said Jeb Bennett, Director of NMUSA, in his comments to the inaugural Pioneers in Education class. Bennett was expressing the sentiments of all the Pioneer Partners—DuPont, NASA-SEMAA, Pioneer Hi-bred and SECME. “This is a perfect compliment to our NMUSA Student Development and Mentoring Program (SDMP),” Mr. Bennett continued. “We will need a talented and diverse workforce for the 21st century.”

In the near term, the Alliance partners will monitor the interns over the coming year, working closely with each of them to ensure they leverage and build on their great experiences at the Academy. “The partners are committed to helping each intern find even more opportunities—they will be a welcome addition to the corporate workforce,” said Thomas Phillips, Pioneer Hi-bred. “We don’t want to lose the momentum.”

The Leadership Academy is the major part of the Pioneers in Education Alliance. Long-range plans for the Alliance also include presenting annual Pioneer Awards to individuals or organizations that have a significant impact on the education of our nation’s youth, and implementing the Pioneer Mentoring Network to assist students throughout the year. The Alliance

will publish *The Pioneer Pages* newsletter quarterly as well as news releases.

The partners will meet in October for a strategy and program review. The most important task is to develop a business plan to guide and sustain the program. “Our goal is to work together as a team and prepare our nation’s youth for the 21st century workforce,” noted John Hairston of NASA-SEMAA.

Calendar

2004		
24 Oct	Pioneer Partners Meeting & NMUSA Reception	Washington, D.C.
25 Oct	AUSA Convention	Washington, D.C.
9–10 Dec	NAAE Convention	Las Vegas
2005		
Jan	Pioneers Meeting	NASA Glenn Research Center, Cleveland
31 Mar	DuPont NSTA Conference	Dallas
1 Apr	MANRRS Conference (Pioneer)	Pittsburgh
14 Jun	NMUSA Army Birthday Celebration	Washington, D.C.
5–20 Jul	Pioneer Student Leadership Academy	Greensboro, NC A&T State Univ.
10–21 Jul	SECME Summer Institute	Greensboro, NC A&T State Univ.