

# ICBS Illinois Council for Black Studies

## THE ILLINOIS BLACK SCHOLAR



Dedicated to Academic Excellence and Social Responsibility

### I.C.B.S. ACTS ON CRISIS!

#### I.C.B.S. ELECTION RESULTS, 1981-1982

**Chairperson:** Gerald McWorter, U.I.-Urbana  
**Vice-Chairperson:** Johnetta Y. Jones, Eastern Ill.  
**Secretary:** Essie Rutledge, Western Ill.  
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Charles Evans, Olive-Harvey  
Gene Young, Bradley  
Sundiata Cha-Jua, Richland Comm.  
**Central:**  
**Southern:** Brisbane Rouzan, Southern Ill.  
Maria Mootry, Southern Ill.

#### Other Executive Committee Members:

**N.C.B.S. Board:** T.K. Daniel, Northern Illinois  
**N.C.B.S. Board:** William Pitts, Northern Illinois  
**Executive Director:** Ronald Bailey, Northwestern

The Illinois Council for Black Studies (I.C.B.S.) has called on the Illinois Board of Higher Education to declare a statewide moratorium on all decisions negatively affecting the status of Illinois Black Studies programs. I.C.B.S. also called for the development and public dissemination of statements from higher education officials assessing the impact of the 1981 Illinois "austerity budget" on Black enrollment and employment in Illinois higher education.

These were two important actions taken by representatives from twelve Illinois campuses gathered in Springfield for the I.C.B.S. First Annual February Conference on "The Status of Black People in Illinois Higher Education" held February 27-28 at Sangamon State University. I.C.B.S. representatives from five additional campuses have since concurred in the proposals, bring the total to seventeen.

The statewide organization held discussions with Dr. Robert Wallhaus, Deputy Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (I.B.H.E.) and with two education specialists on the staff of the Democratic members of The Illinois General Assembly. Also addressing the group was Dr. Rosetta Wheadon, President of State Community

College in East St. Louis, the only Black woman president of an Illinois institution of higher education. Lorenzo Martin, a reporter from *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, covered the meeting as part of a major article on Black Studies in the U.S. which featured I.C.B.S.. (See the March 30, 1981 issue).

The meeting adopted an official I.C.B.S. position paper entitled "Evaluating Illinois Black Studies in the 1980's: An Analysis and Proposals for Excellence in the Second Decade". The report proposed the implementation of rigorous standards for self evaluation and program development, clear standards and a statewide plan for Black Studies from the Illinois Board of Higher Education, and statewide implementation of the N.C.B.S. Curriculum Standards report.

#### Moratorium on Decisions Dismantling Black Studies

The call for a moratorium on Black Studies decisions was a response to recent and on-going attempts to dismantle or otherwise weaken Black Studies programs and course offerings at several colleges and universities in the state. These attacks come despite the fact that enrollment in Black Studies is increasing and that programs are stabilizing after less than ten years existence.

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Participants in Recent I.C.B.S. Springfield Conference

I.C.B.S. warmly greets the Fifth Annual Conference of  
**THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BLACK STUDIES**  
meeting in New York City, April 1-5, 1981.  
Keep up the fight and join us for the  
1982 Sixth N.C.B.S. Conference in  
**CHICAGO/ILLINOIS!**

**THE ILLINOIS COUNCIL FOR BLACK STUDIES**

(P.O. Box 87244, Chicago, IL 60680)

UNITY • COMMUNICATION • COOPERATION/COLLECTIVE ACTION

**I.C.B.S. NEWS AND NOTES**

**Chicago Public Library**—Donald Joyce, Chair of the I.C.B.S. Library Resources Committee, has resigned his position as Curator of the Vivian Harsh Afro-American Collection. He will become head of the reference department at Tennessee State. Our tremendous loss is their gain, and I.C.B.S. wishes him well. I.C.B.S. is writing the Director of Chicago Public Library and will send a delegation to emphasize the importance of finding a new director of Dr. Joyce's professional stature and expertise, and of the need to expand support for this important Black Studies resource.

**Governors State University**—Roger Oden has again hosted the Annual Third World Conference for the seventh consecutive year on March 25-28, 1981. Theme: "Global Interdependence and National Development."

**Northern Illinois University**—T.K. Daniel is continuing his important work of compiling a national assessment of the status of Black Studies programs for the National Council for Black Studies. He continues as a member of the national board of N.C.B.S.

**Northwestern University**—William Exum is on leave for two quarters and is revising a manuscript entitled *Paradoxes of Protest: Black Student Activism in the 1960s*. He is also completing a series of articles on institutional racism in higher education.

—Ronald Bailey recently delivered a paper on "Capitalist Democracy and the New Black Disenfranchisement in the 1980s" at the Oliver Cox Symposium on "Equality: An Appropriate Goal for Black Americans?" at the J.F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. He is completing an article on the 1980 census undercount controversy and working on a book on the role of the slave trade in the development of U.S. industrial capitalism.

—Cheryl Johnson, on leave from Loyola, is assistant director of the African Studies Program and a lecturer in African American Studies. She was recently elected to the board of the Association of African Studies Programs and attended its recent meeting in Washington.

**Oakton Community College**—Gwen Fortune's program was recently nominated and evaluated for a State of Illinois award for excellence in multi-cultural studies.

**Olive Harvey College**—Charles Evans is teaching a course on labor history which is broadcast over the radio station WBEZ in Chicago. The Department will again host its annual Black Studies conference for the fourth year.

**Richland Community College**—Sundiata Cha-jua has enrolled in graduate school in political science at Sangamon State University and is working with the minority Student Center there. He continues his teaching duties at Richland Community College.

**Roosevelt University**—Sara Miles Woods will again serve as consultant and evaluator for the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and will visit Shaw University of Detroit in late April.

**Thornton Community College**—Dave Johnson, as an elected member of the school board in Harvey, attended the recent San Francisco meeting of the National Association of School Board Members. He is also active in its national and regional Black Caucus.

**University of Illinois (Circle Campus)**—Sterling Plump has published poetry in recent issues of *The Black Scholar*. His extended narrative poem, *Common Hands*, tracing the historical development of Black people through the slavery, rural and urban periods, is being published in May by Peoples College Press. The Black Studies program at Circle is also undergoing its first major review.

**University of Illinois (Urbana)**—Gerald McWorter recently edited *Guide to Scholarly Publishing in Black Studies Periodicals* and authored *The Professionalization of Achievement in Black Studies*, an effort to develop an objective ranking system for programs in the field. He is Chair of the N.C.B.S. Committee on Methods and serves on the national board. His program received a \$24,000 grant from the Illinois Humanities Council for a film series in Central Illinois (in cooperation with other Black Studies programs and community organizations). He will also host the C.I.C. Summer Program for faculty from historically Black colleges with a \$43,000 grant from the Lilly Foundation. The theme is "Social Change and the Black Experience."

—Diana Slaughter attended a meeting of the National Advisory Board of the Center for the Study of Child Abuse and Neglect in Washington, D.C. She is organizing two special symposiums that are mentioned in the calendar section of this newsletter. She returns to Northwestern in Fall, 1981.

**Western Illinois University**—Essie Rutledge has contributed an article to a new book, *The Black Woman* (Sage Publication), edited by LaFrances Rodgers-Rose of Princeton's Afro-American Studies Program.

**KEEP I.C.B.S. INFORMED SO THAT WE CAN TELL OTHERS OF YOUR ACTIVITIES!**

**Bradley University**—Gene Young has successfully engineered a new 18-hour interdisciplinary minor in Black Studies beginning this Fall.

**Loyola University**—Beverly Walker has won approval for a new minor in Afro-American Studies.

**OTHER ILLINOIS BLACK STUDIES RESOURCES**

**A-V MATERIALS.** I.C.B.S. is cooperating to make a number of films and video tapes available, in addition to speakers on a wide variety of topics. Write for details.

**NEW BLACK STUDIES RESEARCH TOOL.** The Chicago Center for Afro-American Studies and Research has announced the publication of *RESEARCH IN AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES* in June 1981. It is an annual compilation of the table of contents from more than 65 Black Studies journals and articles from non-Black journals. Books, book reviews, dissertations, and government documents on the Black experience are included, along with a subject and author index. Over 6000 entries are included for the first issue covering 1979. Three I.C.B.S. members are involved: Ron Bailey, editor; Tim Johnson, managing editor; and Gerald McWorter, chair of the advisory board. The Center provided the necessary funds to publish and distribute the proceedings from the I.C.B.S. conference on *Black People and the 1980 Census*. Write CCAASR, P.O. 7610, Chicago, IL 60680 for its list of publications, which include *Guide to Scholarly Publishing in Black Studies Periodicals* and *The Professionalization of Achievement in Black Studies*.

**BOOKSTORE CATALOGUE.** Timbuktu: The Black Peoples Bookstore will soon publish a catalogue which includes its 1500 titles. Write 2530 S. Michigan Av. Chicago 60616 for a copy or stop by Mon-Wed., 1-7 p.m. I.C.B.S. members get a special discount.



Delegation of English Teachers from French Speaking Africa after I.C.B.S. Reception

**SCENES FROM THE I.C.B.S. FOUNDING CONFERENCE**



Daniel, McWorter, Rutledge

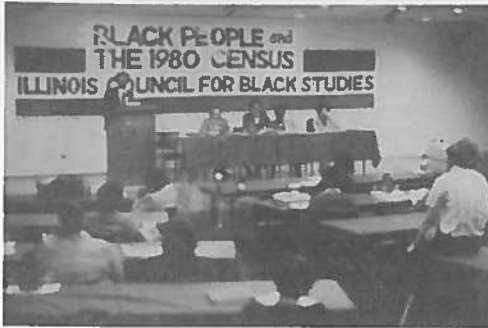


State Senator Newhouse with Exum and Johnson of I.C.B.S. and Hall of Wayne State and N.C.B.S. National Board



Plump and Palmer

## SCENES FROM THE I.C.B.S. CENSUS CONFERENCE



Opening Plenary



Johnson and Fortune



Press Conference: (l-r) Hill, National Urban League; McWorter; Moore (Chicago Regional Director) and Hall, Census Bureau

## I.C.B.S. ACTS ON CRISIS!

The most serious attack is the I.B.H.E. proposal to eliminate the Black Studies degree program at **Western Illinois University**, citing "low enrollment and job placement difficulties." The facts show that Black Studies enrollment is increasing at Western Illinois and is higher than several other departments. Students have reported no difficulties with job placement and no evidence has been presented by I.B.H.E. to sustain this point.

The **City Colleges of Chicago** is attempting to merge the Afro-American Studies Department at Olive-Harvey College with the Social Sciences Department. This Department is the only one at a two-year college in Chicago and in Illinois which offers an Associate Arts degree in Afro-American Studies. Its enrollment is high and increasing and its students successfully enter four year institutions.

The Black Studies Programs at **Eastern Illinois University** and at the **University of Illinois at Chicago Circle** are undergoing reviews. These reviews should be the basis of identifying weaknesses and building stronger programs, but given tight budgets they could be the basis for ending these programs.

**For I.C.B.S., the issue statewide and on individual campuses is not whether to have Black Studies, but how to have better programs and courses.** I.C.B.S. recognizes that there are serious financial difficulties facing higher education in Illinois. But it is equally as essential that *all* students in Illinois have the opportunity to study the Black experience, just as all students are required to study the general history and culture of the U.S. and Western civilization, a course of study which often omits, distorts, or minimizes the contributions of Afro-American people.

This study of the Black experience is especially important today as we witness growing institutional and societal racism (e.g., murders in Buffalo, Atlanta, etc.) and the deepening economic crisis which have a devastating and disproportionate impact on the Black community. These were the reasons that Black Studies programs were fought for and implemented in the 1960s and 1970s. In light of current conditions, the continuation and expansion of Black Studies is still a pressing necessity.

The discussion with Dr. Wallhaus of the Illinois Board of Higher Education served to underscore the need for a more consistent

and comprehensive statewide approach to Black Studies. Dr. Wallhaus stated: "It isn't proper for a university to not give visibility and recognition to Black Studies by not allowing Black Studies courses to count toward graduation or fulfillment of requirements in degree programs. I think that this is wrong and you can go back to your campuses and say that I said so."

I.C.B.S. sees the moratorium and statewide plan as necessary to enable it to undertake self-evaluation and to pursue implementation of recent positive national developments in Black Studies at the state level. One prime example deserving of immediate statewide attention is the recently adopted Black Studies curriculum framework from the Curriculum Standards Commission of the National Council for Black Studies.

### The Impact of the State Austerity Budget

The Illinois Council for Black Studies also voted to express its deep concern over the impact of the 1982 Illinois "austerity" budget on the Black community's access to Illinois higher education. News articles describing the budget quoted many public officials calling on the public to "tighten their belts" and to "sacrifice."

The Illinois council for Black Studies pointed out that Black people in Illinois have historically sacrificed and done with less when it comes to access to higher education in the state, especially tax-supported higher education.

Statistics published by the Illinois Board of Higher Education show that Blacks still do not have equitable access to higher education opportunities in Illinois. Though comprising about 13.6% of the Illinois population in 1970, Blacks comprised only 6.5% at Board of Regents institutions and 8.2% at the University of Illinois (3.5% at Urbana, 5% at the Medical Center), and only 11% of total enrollment at public senior universities. Black enrollment at Illinois private institutions totaled only 7.7% and is declining. For example, enrollment of Black first year students at Northwestern University declined by 30% in 1980-81.

**KEEP I.C.B.S. INFORMED SO THAT WE CAN TELL OTHERS OF YOUR ACTIVITIES!**

**HAVE YOU JOINED I.C.B.S.? WRITE FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**



Rosetta Wheadon, President, State Community College of Illinois addresses I.C.B.S.

I.C.B.S. stated: "We are concerned that the austerity budget will hit hardest at Black people who have not been equitably included in the mainstream of Illinois higher education even when there was no financial crisis.

For these reasons, the Illinois Council for Black Studies has called on all concerned public officials and others in Illinois to ask some hard questions during the next few weeks as the higher education budget goes through the process of hearings and legislative approval. Higher education officials should address the issue of budget cutting in ways which will not reduce the access of Blacks and other minorities to opportunities for education and employment in Illinois higher education.

I.C.B.S. concerns regarding the future of Black people in higher education has also been communicated to public officials. The report has been sent to State Senator Richard Newhouse, a Black Chicago legislator who chairs the Higher Education Committee and to other officials. Senator Newhouse made a special trip to Urbana in October 1979 to express his concern and support at the founding conference of the Illinois Council for Black Studies.

Letters to higher education officials and other and several meetings are planned by I.C.B.S. to escalate its fight to defend the status of Blacks in Illinois higher education.

For copies of the reports and additional information contact: Dr. Ronald Bailey, Executive Director, Illinois Council for Black Studies, P.O. Box 87244, Chicago, IL 60680, or call (312) 492-5122.



## Higher Education News and Notes

### RATE OF ENROLLMENT GROWTH AMONG BLACKS IS SLOWING; SURPASSED BY HISPANICS.

Nationwide, according to a new study by the Southern Regional Education Board, black enrollment reached 1,055,964 in the fall of 1978, a 2.2-per-cent increase over the 1976 total. "This represents a considerable slowing of the rate of growth of black enrollment experienced during the first half of the decade," the board said.

The number of Hispanic students rose 13 per cent over the same two year period, to 541,270.

The number of black full-time students actually decreased by 1 per cent between 1976 and 1978, the most recent year for which figures are available, but the decline was offset by a 7-per-cent increase in part time enrollment.

Over the same period, the number of blacks in all graduate programs declined by 2.6 per cent. Black enrollment increased slightly in graduate science, engineering, and professional programs, the report said. But, it added, "blacks in most graduate and first professional fields, except education, remained significantly underrepresented." (Chronicle of Higher Education, April 25, 1980; copies of this report *Black and Hispanic Enrollment in Higher Education, 1978*... may be obtained for \$3 from the Southern Regional Education Board, 130 Sixth Street, NW Atlanta, Ga. 30313.)

### HARVARD PLANS RUSH FOR MINORITY STAFF.

In a significant extension of its current affirmative action program, Harvard University's Faculty of Arts and Sciences plans to begin actively recruiting women and minority applicants for junior and tenured faculty positions, university officials said.

The program is an outgrowth of a recent internal report, conducted at the request of students and faculty members, that con-

cluded that Harvard's efforts to diversify its applicant pool were insufficient. (New York Times, Oct. 31, 1980)

### REAGAN'S PLAN COULD SHARPLY CUT U.S. AID FOR 1.5 MILLION STUDENTS.

A Reagan Administration Proposal could sharply reduce the amount of Federal education grants for about 1.5 million college students in the next school year... The

Department of Education has stopped processing applications for the grants. The department plans to send postcards to about 1.5 million applicants for the grants in the next few weeks informing them of a temporary delay in processing... College officials and many members of Congress say that the Administration's proposal could result in thousands of students dropping out of college for lack of funds. (N.Y. Times, March 14, 1981)

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

**April 6, 1981.** "The Atlanta Murders: Defending Black Children from Abusive Societal Violence." Special symposium at the Fifth National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect. Milwaukee (Hyatt Regency, 2 pm). Presentation by two mothers of slain Atlanta youth, Owusu Sadauki (Howard Fuller), and others. Contact: Diana Slaughter, University of Illinois-Urbana, (217) 333-7781.

**April 9-11, 1981.** The Fourth Annual Black Studies Conference sponsored by the African-American Studies Association and African-American Studies Department of Olive College will be held at Olive-Harvey College, 10001 South Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60628, (312) 568-3700, Ext. 207/212.

**April 9-12, 1981.** The Sixth Midwest Marxist Scholars Conference will be held at UW-Milwaukee, with the theme "Racism and the Denial of Human Rights." Further information: Marxist Educational Press, Anthropology Department, University of Minnesota, 215 Ford Hall, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455.

**April 16-18, 1981.** Joint Meeting: African Heritage Studies Association, Theme: "The Many Faces of Imperialism: Challenge of the 80s," and National Conference of Black

Political Scientists, Theme: "The Crisis of Black Leadership: National and International Dimensions," Baltimore, Maryland. Contact: Shelby Lewis, Political Science Department, Atlanta University (404) 681-0251.

**April 24-26, 1981.** Fifth Annual State of Black America Conference. "Black Survival in the 1980s: A Time for United Action." Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. Contact Coordinating Committee, 512 E. State St., Ithaca, NY 14850 (607) 272-0995.

**April 25, 1981.** "Black English and the State of Michigan: An Instance for Developing Research and Public Policy." A special symposium convened at The Society for Research and Child Development. Boston. Presentations: Diana Slaughter, Gerald McWorter and Geneva Smitherman. Contact: Diana Slaughter, Chair, Black Caucus of SRCD, (217) 333-7781.

**May 31-June 4, 1981.** The National Women's Studies Association will hold its third annual convention—"Women Respond to Racism"—at the University of Connecticut, Storrs. For further information contact: NWSA Convention Coordinators, Women's Studies, U-181A, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06268, (203) 486-4310.

## ABOUT THE ILLINOIS COUNCIL FOR BLACK STUDIES

THE ILLINOIS COUNCIL FOR BLACK STUDIES (I.C.B.S.) is a statewide organization of Black Studies faculty and others formed in October 1979. It is aimed at promoting academic excellence and social responsibility in Black Studies, bringing the resources of higher education and Black Studies to bear in exploring and helping to solve problems that exist for the Black community and the entire society. Its three main goals are: UNITY, COMMUNICATION, AND COOPERATION AND COLLECTIVE ACTION. All of this is intended to defend and expand the role of Black Studies and Black people in Illinois higher education.

Programmatic activities of I.C.B.S., some of which were initiated in 1979-1980, include: active involvement in the programs and annual conference of the National Council for Black Studies; developing committees to take up such concerns as curriculum development, political action, library resources, etc.; organizing a study tour to Africa; coordinating calendars and joint activity for Black Liberation Month/Black History Month (February); compiling a directory of Black Studies resources in Chicago and Illinois; publishing a newsletter; and organizing discussions and conferences to explore issues important to the Black community.

A copy of the I.C.B.S. founding document, **BLACK POWER IN HIGHER EDUCATION**, and other information is available upon request. Black Studies departments, faculty, and student organizations at the following Illinois institutions are 1979-1980 members of the I.C.B.S., listed with the representative to the I.C.B.S. Executive Council:

*Chair:* University of Illinois (Urbana), Gerald McWorter • *Co-Chair:* Eastern Illinois University, Johnetta Y. Jones • *Executive Director:* Northwestern University, Ronald Bailey • *Art Institute of Chicago,* Ronne Hartsfield • *Blackhawk College,* Tony Boyd • *Bradley University,* Gene Young • *Central YMCA College,* Sheila Radford-Hill • *Chicago Public Library,* Vivian Harsh Afro-American Collection, Sharon Scott • *Chicago State University,* Maryemma Graham • *Governor's State University,* Roger Oden • *Illinois State University,* Jacqueline Bontemps • *Loyola University,* Beverly Walker • *Malcolm X College,* Jo Ann Matthews • *Northern Illinois University,* Phillip T.K. Daniel • *Northwestern University,* William Exum • *Oakton Community College,* Gwendoline Y. Fortune • *Olive Harvey College,* Charles Evans • *Richland Community College,* Sundiata Cha-Jua • *Roosevelt University,* S. Miles Woods • *Rosary College,* Fannie Rushing • *Sangamon State University,* Janis Jordan • *Southern Illinois University,* Brisbane Rouzan/Maria Mootry • *Thornton Community College,* David Johnson (Treasurer) • *University of Illinois (Circle),* Sterling Plump • *Western Illinois University,* Essie M. Rutledge (Secretary) • *Garrett Theological Seminary,* Hycel Taylor

## ABOUT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BLACK STUDIES

The National Council for Black Studies is the national professional organization in the field of Black Studies. For information about national developments in Black Studies, including copies of its national newsletter, *Voices in Black Studies*, recently adopted national reports on curriculum standards and accreditation, and membership information, write:

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BLACK STUDIES, INC.  
Dr. Joseph J. Russell, Executive Director  
Memorial Hall East M35  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, Indiana 47405