

# Teleconference gives views on low minority enrollment

By Michelle McDonald  
Staff Reporter

Although Jim Crow laws and "separate-but-equal" clauses are long outdated, low minority enrollment in post-secondary education institutions still is holding male minorities back, a group of panelists told UNL students Wednesday at the Nebraska Union.

Twenty-two people attended "Men of Color: Absence in Academia," a teleconference sponsored by the Affirmative Action Office at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The national teleconference, based in Washington, D.C., included 15 minority panelists, who are professionals in education, psychology, government and business.

Some panelists said social inequalities and a lack of encouragement from teachers stops minorities from attending college.

According to panel members, statistics show that while blacks constitute 6 percent of the population in general, they make up 50 percent of the prison population. Thirty-five percent of black males use drugs, half of Hispanic and black children grow up in poverty, and 90 percent of American Indian men drop out of school.

Gussie Anderson, a retired teacher, said minorities growing up in poverty do not have the self-esteem or the family cohesiveness to compete fairly in American schools.

U.S. Sen. Cleo Fields of Louisiana said teachers must give more positive reinforcement to male minority students.

Fields said a teacher once told him he was only capable of being a mechanic.

"But I wanted to be a lawyer," he said.

Teachers must build students' self-esteem by encouraging them to go farther and by pushing them harder, he said.

William Cross of Harvard University said, according to his own study, 67 percent of male minority students said their teachers didn't push them hard enough. But he said most students indicated they planned to attend college despite what their teachers told them.

Sarah Melendez, a Hispanic member of the panel, said the word "minority" unfortunately conjures up a negative image. She said stereotypes like "minority" and "underachiever" can lower self-esteem.

People of color are at a disadvantage, she said, because tuition has "skyrocketed" and the gap between white and minority incomes has widened.

Terry Goods, a senior in the UNL College of Arts & Sciences, said he was surprised at the low turnout. He said he came to the teleconference because minorities' absence in academia is an issue that "we men of color are interested in."

The teleconference was the first in a series of three. The next is planned for April 18.

# Suffragette and author teach senators about past, future

By Emily Rosenbaum  
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska Legislature received a blast from the past and a glimpse into the future Wednesday during New Horizons Day.

The program, which was started three years ago to bring new perspectives to the Legislature, included a portrayal of suffragette Elizabeth Cady Stanton by Sally Roesch Wagner of the University of California-Davis.

Rushworth Kidder, author of two books focusing on world issues in the 21st century and a columnist for the Christian Science Monitor, addressed senators and visitors about ethics for the next century.

Wagner appeared before the Legislature in full 19th-century garb and spoke as Stanton did during her lifelong struggle for women's rights.

Wagner described the hardships endured by 19th-century pioneer women who made their way across the plains but received no recognition for their work.

"Women of Nebraska lived under an oligarchy of sex," she said, "a dictatorship of men."

She asked the senators and guests if women wanted the opportunity to vote because of vanity.

"Why did we want the ballot?" she asked. "Because it was our right."

Wagner exhibited the frustration women felt when they were denied their "inherent right" to vote. She told how Susan B. Anthony was arrested for voting in a presidential election and was fined \$100.

"To vote was a man's duty and a woman's crime," she said.

Stanton was in Nebraska many times from 1866 until her death in 1902. She came to Nebraska, especially during the 1871 and 1875 constitutional conventions, to try to get women's suffrage into the U.S. Constitution and the Nebraska Constitution.

Stanton spoke in Lincoln at University Hall on June 16, 1871, while the convention was meeting.

Kidder, author of "An Agenda for the 21st Century" and "Reinventing the Future: Global Goals for the 21st Century," told senators that policymakers must address the agenda for the next century.

Kidder interviewed 22 artists, scientists, policymakers and philosophers around the world to learn what major issues the world will face in the next century.

He said their concerns included nuclear power, overpopulation, the environment, the gap between the developing and the industrial world, restructuring educational systems and the breakdown in public and private morality.

Leaders cannot address these issues without considering ethics, Kidder said.

"As we move into the 20th century, we move into a global community," he said.

Isolationism no longer will be possible as countries become dependent on each other for success and survival, he said.

Ethics will be needed to effectively relate to other countries and trust will be a big part of

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