

Through ^{and} words actions

Workshops highlight sessions *Presentations deal with issues facing blacks*

BY KIM SWEET
Staff Reporter

Students may flock to the nighttime entertainment highlights of the Big 12 Black Student Government Conference this weekend.

But they shouldn't forget to participate in the daytime, too.

Conference participants may benefit most from dozens of daily educational workshops, said Tara Varilek, workshops chair for the conference.

"They are such a variety," Varilek said. "I think they are all going to be very positive and very effective."

About 30 presenters will hold 19 workshops during the four-day period and will deal with issues facing black students, she said.

Topics will include personal issues like male and female relationships and community issues such as living on a predominantly white campus.

The leaders of the workshops come from Big 12 universities as well as other universities and communities nationwide.

A mix of undergraduates, graduates and professionals will lead the weekend's workshops, Varilek said.

But undergraduates organized the must-see workshops of the weekend, said Alisa Mosely, entertainment team leader.

Undergraduate presenters may provide a new perspective on issues often presented by faculty or staff members at other national conferences, she said.

Mosely recommended three workshops, including "Mirrors of Myself," led by Oklahoma University undergraduates Alfie Herron and Alicia Miller.

She also suggested "My Sister Myself" and "Leading with the Soul," a workshop focusing on leadership in the new millennium.

"The workshop will provide good foresight into the direction that students will be taking into the next century," Mosely said.

The workshops should form a crucial part of the students' weekend, she said.

"I think the workshops serve as a primer for students," Mosely said. "It is like a mini-course in two or three days."

The following workshops are planned for Friday and Saturday:

FRIDAY

Session I - 10:15-11:30 a.m.

■ "Economics with Julianne Malveaux"

The economist and syndicated columnist will focus on issues including public policy, poverty in America and the labor market and its effect on women. Malveaux is a keynote speaker.

■ "Networking with George Fraser"

■ "Mirrors of Myself"

Led by Alfie Herron and Alicia Miller, this workshop will focus on black women and their roles in American society, including the jealousy and insecurity women often feel and the consequences that come along with these feelings.

■ "Preparing for Graduate Professional School"

Lawrence T. Potter Jr. from the University of Missouri will guide undergraduates through the process of applying to graduate and professional schools. Potter will focus on test-taking strategies, creating a statement of purpose, completing the application process, financial assistance and following-up on potential jobs after the application process.

Session II - 2-3:15 p.m.

■ "Generation X Without Malcolm"

The Rev. Osagyefo Uhuru Sekou will lecture from his forthcoming book, which looks at the history of black pop culture in America and changes since the death of Malcolm X. He will encourage participants to identify solutions to the challenges facing black youth.

■ "ACTION"

Steve Birdine from Indiana University will provide a common sense approach to improving campus environment for minority students, faculty and staff members and administrators. Participants will receive an action plan for improving their campus.

■ "Creating Cohesive African American Community"

John L. Harris, special assistant to the vice chancellor at UNL, will identify the characteristics of a community, the issues and problems a community can face in a campus environment and how to improve a campus environment through cohesiveness.

■ "Building Bridges"

The focus of this workshop is to promote cooperation between the greek system and student government. The workshop will allow participants to set goals, organize programs and activities and identify current issues their campuses are facing.

■ "African American Studies in the 21st Century"

The purpose of this program is to

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entertainment team leader

discuss the future of African-American studies programs at predominantly white institutions. Participants will be encouraged to discuss needs, concerns and visions.

Session III - 3:30-4:45 p.m.

■ "Health Careers Pathways Program"

Gregory Frost will teach students about the Health Careers Pathways Program at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kan., and how students can reach their goals of working in the health field.

■ "My Sister Myself"

Melanie Coffee and Angela Allen will lead the discussion allowing women of diverse backgrounds to come together and share their experiences. The presenters will discuss the need for unity among black women on campuses, present principles of empowerment and discuss how those principles can be applied to women's lives.

■ "Dispelling the Myth of the Tragic Mulatto"

This workshop focuses on the concerns of America's growing biracial population.

Michele Ludeman and Anna Thomas will attempt to dispel the negative stereotypes of the "tragic mulatto" who belongs to two different cultures but fits into neither. The workshop will provide a forum for participants to discuss concerns relating to their campuses and communities.

■ "Leading with the Soul"

This workshop will focus on developing or enhancing leadership skills in order to use experiences and education to lead soulfully. This interactive workshop will challenge leaders and encourage them to share their experiences.

■ "Successful Financial Management"

Teresa Clouch from Emporia State University in Emporia, Kan., will inform participants about personal debt. Clouch will talk about financial management and how it can strengthen the black family. This workshop will also teach how participants can maintain their financial stability.

SATURDAY

Session I - 10:15-11:30 a.m.

■ "Black Love in the Afternoon"

Dennis Watson will lead a workshop on the exploration of black male and female relationships.

■ "Ethically Speaking"

This workshop focuses on the ethical decision making processes and the role they play in student leadership. The workshop will include a discussion on student leaders and ethics.

■ "Facilitating the Empowerment of Students"

Led by three presenters, the workshop will give participants insight on the process of empowerment and advice on how to network in order to take advantage of campus resources. They also will tell participants how to secure their rights using federal civil rights regulations, the Department of Education and internal campus processes.

■ "Black Family on Campus, An Athletic Perspective"

B. Gabrielle Keith will explore the academic, athletic and social life of a black male student athlete and his relationship with his black campus community.

Session II - 2-3:15 p.m.

■ "HIV Prevention in the African American Community"

Tami Robinson, a health educator, will explore the impact of HIV and AIDS on the African-American community, and how HIV prevention can work. The workshop will focus on risk reduction skills and how the black community can spread this knowledge.

■ "Leadership in the Next Millennium"

■ "Historically Not Ours and Presently We Need a Plan"

Cheryll Sibley-Alboid from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn. will talk about developing the skills to plan for a successful college career. Discussion time for students to discuss their predominantly white campus experiences will be included.

■ "Mirrors of Myself"

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