



Association of Black Women in Higher Education—Minnesota

Jambo! Hello!

Welcome to Minnesota, Dr. Jeffrey!

The MN chapter of ABWHE hosted a tea social to welcome newly appointed Kathryn Jeffery to Hennepin technical College. Dr. Jeffrey took office as the president of the college in March 2006 and officially began her duties in July. (See article in Spring 2006 newsletter.)

The celebration was held on November 18 at Weyerhaeuser Hall on the campus of Macalester College. The tea began with a welcome message by Darlene Fry. Nancy Walters introduced the chapter mission and the occasion. Yvonne Redman-Banks provided decorations and devo-

tions to give thanks for our lives and time together.

The tea included a structured get-acquainted-activity. The attendees introduced themselves and each attendee shared resources from the Twin Cities metropolitan area for each other and our guest, Dr. Kathryn Jeffery, President



of Hennepin Technical College. The highlight of the occasion was Dr. Jeffrey's pres-

entation on her journey to the presidency. She explained strategies and steps to obtain positions in higher education. Her presentation was laced with insight and reflective judgment on the challenges of meeting the goal of public leadership in higher education.

Sharon Kelly and Cheryl Chatman presented gifts to Dr. Jeffrey that included a hand-knitted scarf and a compact disc by Vocal Essence. Karla Davis provided concluding remarks.

Submitted by Sharon F. Kelly
(more photos on p. 3)

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www.abwhemn.org

Inside this issue:

<i>Welcome Dr. Jeffrey</i>	1
<i>Reflection</i>	1
<i>President's Corner</i>	2
<i>Article Review</i>	2
<i>Member Updates</i>	2-3
<i>Holiday Celebration 2006</i>	3

Reflections by Yvonne

Grace of the Season

As we look back over the year, at our successes and challenges I hope that the "Grace of the Season," allows us to celebrate our spirit in affirming ways. In Yancey's book he outlined that "grace is an unearned gift." When we receive unearned gifts, surprises or affirmations our spirits are lifted. For many of us we feel a sense of renewal and we are able to move on to our next task with new energy.

Let's think of this energy as the unearned grace that carries us and celebrate it! For those not able to embrace the "Grace of the Season,"

they may miss out on opportunities to celebrate happiness, fellowship and the experience of accepting the gift that comes with grace. As a member of ABWHE I have learned over the years that the friendship and support that I have experienced is an unearned grace. Yes, and this "Grace of the Season," can carry us forward if we cultivate it.

Yancey outlined that in many ways we should strive to cultivate a culture that nourishes grace and promote the receipt of our unearned gifts. So, on behalf of

ABWHE and our members I extend to you a conversation that I hope promotes a reflection on the prosperity that comes from the unearned benefits of grace; the "Grace of the Season."

P.S. "Take time to read a good book, relax or laugh with a friend; it's ok, the work will still be there."

Submitted by Dr. Yvonne RB-Banks

Reference: Philip Yancey, "What's So Amazing about Grace?"



President's Corner

Higher education in Minnesota is truly blessed to have Dr. Jeffery as the new leader for Hennepin Technical College. She continually expresses and demonstrates her commitment to reaching out to the community so that students are aware of the opportunities at Hennepin Tech and the rewards of higher education.

A survey published in 2002 by the American Council on Education (ACE) indicated that the number of female college presidents had more than doubled since the mid-1980s,

from 9.5 percent to 21.1 percent and the percentage of minority presidents increased from 8.1 percent to 12.8 percent in the same period. But only 6.3 percent of the minority presidents were Black, so as Minnesotan, we are fortunate to have Dr. Jeffery in our midst.

The numbers from the ACE survey remind us of the several focal points from our ABWHE mission centered on promoting intellectual growth, educational development and leadership potential of Black women. As

we prepare for the challenges of 2007 and all that the year will offer, our commitment to aiding black women in the academy must remain a personal and professional priority.

Submitted by:

Nancy B. Walters, Ph.D.

Founding President, MN Chapter of ABWHE

Article Review: Lonely at the Top?

Volume 23, No.20 of *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* features the article, "Lonely at the Top?" in which six women college presidents discuss their leadership philosophies and challenges. The article contains the ACE survey data referenced above and profiles Zerrie Campbell, President of Chicago's Malcolm X College and the featured

speaker at the June 2006 ABWHE annual meeting in Chicago. The six women profiled provide great insight on their leadership positions and how they have found support as they made their way to the corner office. To access this volume of *Diverse Issues* and to sign up for daily news alerts, go to their website: www.diverseducation.com. Per-

haps we have a future college president in our midst. Please remember to "Lift a s y o u c l i m b ."

Submitted by:

Nancy B. Walters, Ph.D.

Founding President, MN Chapter of ABWHE

Member Updates

Remaining Meetings for 2007-07:

The meeting site unless otherwise noted is **Room K2200 at Minneapolis Community & Technical College, 1501 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis.**

- January 20, 2007: 9:30 a.m.-12:00
- February 24, 2007: 9:30 a.m.-12:00
- April 21, 2007: Spring Event,

11:30-1:30 pm at Northwestern College in the Youderian Lounge

- May 19, 2007: 9:30 - 12 noon

A map of Minneapolis Community and Technical College can be found at:

<http://www.minneapolis.edu/aboutMCTC/directions.cfm#main>

Research on African American Women and Work:

If you have any letters, diaries, journals, and scrapbooks representing African American women working in Minnesota between 1890 and 1950, please call Sharon at 651-645-3571.

We will meet at a public library or at an



Association of Black Women in Higher Education—Minnesota Chapter



Photos courtesy of Ray of Light Photography

The Minnesota Chapter of ABWHE was founded in 2000.

The Association of Black women in Higher Education creates space for professionals and personal development of its members and allows them to connect, support and commit their talents and expertise in promoting positive outcomes for their communities. Please visit us at www.abwhemn.org

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office supply store where I will copy and return your original records to you. Upon receipt of documents, your name will be entered in a drawing for a \$20.00 dollar gift card.

Submitted by
Sharon F. Kelly
PhD Candidate
University of Minnesota, Work and Human Resources Education

Holiday Celebration 2006

On December 8, 2006 the second annual ABWHE Holiday Event was held at the home of ABWHE member, Marcella Jones. A brief opening prayer and blessing of the food was offered by the host. Dr. Yvonne Brown Banks, who co-hosted the event, gave a spiritual reflection adapting the five love languages (time, affirmation, gifts, service and touch) to the holiday season.

A delicious five-course meal was served by Timothy Reed, Evelena Hillman and

Airee Mobley. Also in attendance were the following ABWHE members and other special guests: Dr. Yvette Pye, Darla Jones (sister to Lena), Dr. Cheryl Chatman, Joe Banks and Lauren-Elaine Brown (husband and daughter of Yvonne). *MJ*

Pictured clockwise: Marcella Jones, Lena Jones, Darlene Fry, Yvonne Brown Banks, Karla Davis, Kathryn Jeffrey

