

# DuPage County ACT-SO

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Carol Wilson – Editor & Chair

Keisha Thomas - Contributor

## **Giving THANKS**

We thank the College of DuPage for providing its facilities at the Glen Ellyn campus for the DuPage County ACT-SO program. We would not be able to offer the best to the students in ACT-SO without the use of this state of the art facility to hold meetings and events.

## **2012-2013 ACT-SO PROGRAM**

### **2012-2013 ACT-SO STUDENTS**

DuPage County ACT-SO students participating in the 2012 and 2013 program are getting a lot of bang for their buck! Their monthly Enrichment sessions provide information to enhance their knowledge and the Mentoring sessions assist in guiding students as their projects progress. These sessions are essential in preparing students for their chosen project for the competition. (For more see ENRICHMENT AND MENTORING, Page 2).

During the month of December, parents, students and volunteers will be able to share in a spirit of volunteerism at Feed My Starving Children (see Page 4).

The academic bar is set high but reaching it is also very achievable with focused assistance from volunteers and mentors giving their time toward committees and events that assist in supplying students with the necessary tools for participation and success in DuPage County ACT-SO programs.

Another example of those volunteering their time toward a great purpose was shown by the distinguished panel of professionals at DuPage County ACT-SO **Annual Career and College Readiness and Scholarship Panel and Workshops** held in November at the College of DuPage. A significant amount of very useful information was shared during this event. (See Page 3)

During this special season of sharing and giving, our wish is that the students in the DuPage ACT-SO program receive gifts that may not be readily measured by the five senses, but can be expressed by applying knowledge and guidance received from this program with friends and family; and within academic and social activities.

Our hope is that students use these opportunities to not only pursue their goals but that their involvement with DuPage County ACT-SO can blossom into priceless gifts that can benefit us all.

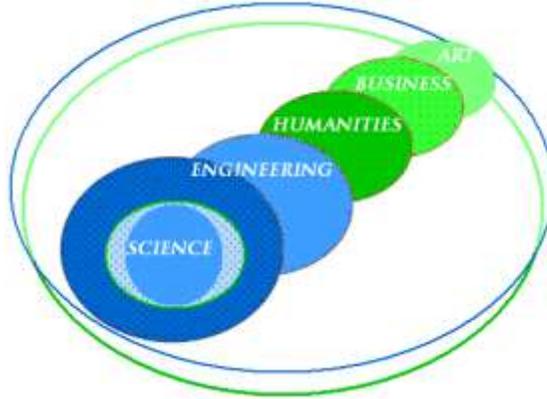
**Editor**

*Carol Wilson*

# SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS

## ENRICHMENT AND MENTORING SESSIONS

### Enrichment and Mentoring – DuPage County ACT-SO



During the 2012-2013 ACT-SO year, student participants attend one Enrichment and Mentoring Session each month. These sessions are held at the College of DuPage on the Glen Ellyn campus. They are designed to provide interactive learning and information gathering and sharing. ACT-SO student participants discuss their project with professionals in the field and learn what needs to be done to progress toward completion of their projects. During the first hour, students are highly engaged through interaction with other students as they share information. Students are encouraged to stay abreast of current regional, national and local news that could be applicable to their chosen projects for competition.

For the next two hours, students participate in groups based upon their chosen project topics. These topics are Business, the Arts, Science and Humanities. Mentors with academic and professional experience in these specific fields work with students providing guidance and assistance, and challenging them to stretch themselves to raise the bar. These sessions assist in providing competition worthy projects.

These projects are in five Areas; Business, the Humanities, Science and Visual and Performing Arts. Students can chose to compete in up to three categories out of twenty-six different competition categories. A few of these categories are Computer Science, Engineering, Business Entrepreneurship and Filmmaking among many others. More on these categories in the January newsletter.

Enrichment and Mentoring sessions are useful tools that are being provided to assist students while working with their goals of bringing their best skills forward to complete their project for competition.

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## DUPAGE ACT-SO EVENT



### **Annual Career and College Readiness/Scholarship Panel and Workshops**

The Annual Career and College Readiness & Scholarship Panel and Workshop presented by DuPage County ACT-SO was held on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at the College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, IL. This event consisted of two panels. The first panel consisted of professionals in academia while the second panel consisted of industries and corporations. Both were very successful with many students and parents in attendance.

Destiny Quintero, Director of Student Activities at DeVry University in Addison, Illinois, along with Brian Johnson, Assistant Dean of Wake Forest University in North Carolina were among the knowledgeable and experienced panelists sharing important information regarding academic courses in the first session. Many helpful suggestions were given. For instance if a student is interested in being a chemical engineer, they should first get a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and then work on attaining Professional Engineering Certifications. Employment in this career area is expected to grow.

Duane Sprowl from J. P. Morgan Chase moderated the second panel. He recommended that students carefully match their chosen career to colleges and universities that specialize in that area. The second panel included representatives from financial institutions, Information Technology, Healthcare, Human Resources, Accounting, Biochemistry, Chemical Engineering and Law among other fields.

Jackie Thompson, a Licensed Social Worker, suggested that along with required courses, Social Worker students should invest significant time into college writing courses to improve their writing skills. Aubrey Miller, a Human Resources Manager at Wellpoint, Inc., suggested to not only concentrate on the highest paying careers but to really understand what you actually like. He suggests that if a student understands what he or she enjoys, this can lead to a career where a student has a greater chance of succeeding in that career. He also suggested that Industrial Organization is a growing field.

Irene Davis, a partner in the accounting firm Mitchell & Titus, states that thinking critically is just as important as understanding accounting. She also said that taking psychology classes can lead to understanding human behavior which is valuable knowledge in any

**Career and College Readiness/Scholarship Panel and Workshops - Continued**

career. Mr. Sandridge, a biochemist, suggests researching careers within pharmaceutical companies. Willie Thomas, a Chemical Engineer, explained that some of the major responsibilities of chemical engineers are to test, manufacture and introduce prescription drugs to the market.

Discussions by all were informative and provided insight into the various fields and industries represented by the illustrious panelists. We congratulate Duane Sprowl and members of the ACT-SO Panel & Workshop Planning Committee for bringing these illustrious panelists together to provide greater understanding and insight to the many career choices our students are interested in. This was a truly worthwhile event!

*Carol Wilson - Editor*

# CALENDAR - ACT-SO EVENTS

## **Feed My Starving Children – Volunteer Opportunity**

As part of our commitment toward supporting the community and enforcing philanthropic values, over 75 DuPage County ACT-SO students, families and friends volunteered at the Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) facility in Aurora, IL on Friday, December 7, 2012.

FMSC is a non-profit Christian organization committed to feeding hungry children in nearly 70 countries. Participants hand-packed specifically formulated meals for malnourished children, and re-stocked shelves while others were assigned to warehouse duties.

Each team came up with catchy jingles while working such as, “Manna ready in Ghana,” “Waiting for Chicken in Haiti” and “It’s cracking in Nicaragua.” Time flew by quickly and volunteers ended with a closing ceremony and prayed over the boxes. By the end of the evening, our volunteers packaged 61 boxes consisting of 13,176 manna packs with enough to feed 36 kids with one meal a day for an entire year. Every one walked away feeling like they each made a difference and were thankful with how blessed they were.

For more information, go to <http://volunteer.fmsc.org>. We are thankful to ACT-SO parent, Shad Amagashie, who coordinated this event.

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**Sat., Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

Students Enrichment Session & Parents Meeting – COD, SRC 2000, 425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL

### **Events – January 2013**

**Mon., Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** (Arrive & Depart at Benedictine University)

Martin Luther King Breakfast – Benedictine University, 5700 College Rd., Lisle, IL (Krasa Ctr.)

(No cost to currently participating ACT-SO students – Must RSVP by December 15<sup>th</sup>)

Will also include:

- Enrichment and Mentoring Sessions
- Program Picture Book Day - Business Attire is Required for Photos
- Final Program Book Ad payment due
- Parents – 2<sup>nd</sup> Progress Report due

## FOCUS ON COMMITTEES

### DuPage County ACT-SO appreciates all of our volunteers!

The Parents, Chairs and Volunteers commit their time toward assisting and ensuring that DuPage County ACT-SO guide participating students in the most positive direction possible to not only discover important qualities about themselves but to also compete at their highest level possible. Thanks to all our volunteers. If you are not on a committee, please contact Brenda Davis, [Brenda.davis@dupageact-so.org](mailto:Brenda.davis@dupageact-so.org) to meet your family commitment of ten volunteer hours.

## STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

The **Emma Bowen Foundation** is actively seeking black male applicants for its paid internship work/study program with national media companies. Any minority student (African American, Hispanic, Asian or Native American) who is a rising high school senior, graduating high school senior or college freshman, has a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0, is interested in pursuing a career in the media industry, and plans to attend a four-year accredited college or university is eligible to apply to the **Emma L. Bowen Foundation** work/study program. Eligible applicants must be U.S. citizens or legal residents of the United States, and speak and write English fluently to be considered. Your grade transcript, at least two (2) educational references from teachers and/or advisors, and a 500-to-1,000-word essay must accompany the application form. This is a multi-year program approximately 70-80 new students join the program each year. For more information, go to <http://www.emmabowenfoundation.com/>. To apply by January 31, 2013, click below <http://emmabowenfoundation.com/index.php/application.html>.

Applications for the **Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship** for minority students who are US citizens can be submitted online as of November 1. Each new JRF Scholar receives \$24,000 over four years to attend a four-year accredited college or university. The submission deadline is February 15, 2013. Info: <http://www.jackierobinson.org/apply/general-applicants.php>.

The **Ron Brown Scholar Program** is a national program that awards scholarships to academically talented, highly motivated African American high school seniors who intend to pursue undergraduate degrees full-time. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. The Program honors the late Ronald H. Brown, Secretary of Commerce during the Clinton administration. These scholarships are reserved for exceptional individuals who share Brown's traits of excellence, leadership, commitment to public service and a desire to make a difference. In addition, applicants must demonstrate financial need. Deadline is January 9, 2013. Info: <http://www.ronbrown.org>.

Every year, the **Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program** selects 1,000 talented minority students to receive a good-through-graduation scholarship to use at any college or university of their choice. The program provides scholars with personal & professional development through our leadership programs along with academic support throughout their college career. Administered by the UNCF, the program was initially funded by a \$1 billion grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Since 1999, it has funded the education of more than 16,000 students, awarding them more than \$614M to pay for tuition, fees, books and housing. The deadline for submission is January 16, 2013. Info: <http://www.scholarshipsonline.org/2012/08/the-gates-millennium-scholars-program.html>.

To find hundreds of other scholarship opportunities, visit: <http://www.ScholarshipsOnline.org>.

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