

***Brown v. Board of Education* Scholarship Awards Committee**

**Richmond
July 10, 2007**

The *Brown v. Board of Education* Scholarship Awards Committee met in Richmond on July 10, 2007, to discuss certain matters pertaining to Program policies and funding, scholarship awards, and to receive a proposal and briefing related to the U. S. Supreme Court decision in *Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District and Meredith v. Jefferson County Board of Education*.

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Proposal by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission

Following the legal course of the Seattle and Kentucky desegregation cases was one of many initiatives of the King Commission that resulted from its responsibilities for the two-year anniversary of the 50th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*. After the Court rendered its decision on June 28, 2007, and given the nexus between the work of the King Commission and the *Brown* Committee and these cases, a proposal and invitation was made by the King Commission to the *Brown v. Board of Education* Scholarship Award Committee, chaired by Senator Benjamin J. Lambert, III, to examine jointly the facts in each case, the decision, and the implications and potential effects of the decision on public schools in the Commonwealth. This Supreme Court decision has been characterized as the most significant public school desegregation decision since *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954. University of Richmond School of Law professor Mr. Henry L. Chambers, Jr. briefed the *Brown* Committee on the decision, indicating that legal scholars, educators, and states around the nation are studying the decision and re-examining pupil assignment plans to determine whether such plans are in compliance with the new decision. The *Brown* Committee accepted the invitation to a joint study of the decision, and members of both groups were appointed by the respective chairmen to form a special subcommittee to examine the decision. Representatives of the education community were also invited to participate on the special subcommittee and an organizational meeting was held on November 29, 2007.

The Carl U. Eggleston Foundation, Inc.

Mr. Carl U. Eggleston of Farmville, businessman and a *Brown* scholarship recipient, testified concerning a nonprofit foundation he established to assist persons in Southside Virginia with defraying the costs of a college education. Since the inception of the scholarship program, some scholarship recipients in Southside Virginia attending private institutions have expressed concern that the award is insufficient to cover the costs of higher education. Currently, Virginia law provides that the award may be used to cover the costs of tuition and textbooks, excluding fees, charges, assessments, and other requirements (e.g. computer) imposed by an approved program or institution of higher education. Mr. Eggleston stated that eligible persons could apply to the Foundation for financial assistance to cover the costs of obligations related to their attendance in college programs.

Funding for Summer School

Several scholarship recipients prefer and have had to begin their educational careers during the summer term due to extenuating circumstances. Therefore, the Committee authorized the use of scholarship awards for summer school attendance for those persons awarded scholarships for the 2006-2007 academic year, if they have not exhausted their funds for the award year. However, beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year, all scholarship recipients may use the award to attend an approved education program during the summer term.

Recommendations

The Committee discussed at length the need for full implementation of the scholarship program, pursuant to Virginia law. It adopted several recommendations to accomplish this goal. The Counseling and Technical Advisory Subcommittee was directed to develop an Action Plan, based upon the recommendations, for the Committee's consideration at the next meeting. The Subcommittee was directed to address the following:

- Legislative and Policy Review

- Transition Education Programs and Services
- Counseling Services for *Brown* Scholars
- Protocol for Dual Enrollment
- Recruitment and Training of Approved Education Programs and Institutional Liaisons
- Informational Sessions for Current and Prospective *Brown* Scholars
- Fundraising Campaign
- Publicity and Public Relations
- Regional Town Hall Meetings
- Application Process for 2008-2009 Academic Year

Chairman:

The Hon. Benjamin J. Lambert, III

Vice-chair:

The Hon. Watkins M. Abbitt, Jr.

For information, contact:

Brenda Edwards, DLS Staff

<http://dls.state.va.us/brown.htm>