



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
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PRESS RELEASE

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Annual NAACP Banquet Will Take Place on Saturday, May 12, 2007



DR. L. WAYNE BRANCH
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

THEME: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE
EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN

The Vancouver Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will hold its 2007 annual banquet on Saturday, May 12, 5:30-8:30 pm, in Gaiser Hall on the campus of Clark College, 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, in Vancouver, WA. The first hour is reserved for socializing and visiting exhibits, followed by dinner and the program.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online via the NAACP website: www.naacpvanc.org. Persons without Internet access can call 360-921-4769 to request registration materials or additional information about sponsorship opportunities, exhibits or other banquet arrangements.

The banquet keynote speaker is Dr. R. Wayne Branch who will share his thoughts on "Community Participation in the Education of Our Children." Born in Charleston, West Virginia, Dr. Branch has spent his career focusing on improving the lives of underserved youth and adults in the areas of higher education, vocational and technical training, and health care. Possessing a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from West Virginia State College, where he also majored in Art, he earned his Masters and Doctorate degrees in Counselor Education from the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Branch's work experience includes diverse public sector positions; however for the past twenty years his career path has taken him to leadership positions within some of our nation's most notable community colleges. Among other positions, he has served as Vice President for Student Affairs at the Community College of Philadelphia, President of the Community College of Baltimore County Essex, and President of Clark College. He has published articles and presented to a variety of audiences on issues related to access and equity, workforce development and leadership.

Shareefah Abdullah, founder of the Black Entrepreneurs of Clark County (BECC) and President of Hot Ovations Communications Coaching and Training Co., is the mistress of ceremonies for this year's banquet. She has the honor of overseeing the presentation of several NAACP awards.

The 2007 Diversity Leadership Award is being presented to Washington State Representative Jim Moeller, Democrat, 49th District, Vancouver, for his ongoing work on behalf of diversity and fair and equal treatment for all community members. His contributions include being the first local legislator to actively solicit African American youth to serve as legislative pages, helping to bring a Washington State Human Rights Commission office to Clark County, and working successfully to pass legislation prohibiting discrimination against people based on their sexual orientation. He is a longtime member and active supporter of the NAACP.

James Posey, Owner of Work Horse Construction, Portland, and Fred Hansen, General Manager of Tri-Met, are the co-recipients of the 2007 Val Joshua Civil Rights Award. They are being honored for developing and implementing a plan that ensured significant minority participation in the Interstate Avenue phase of light rail construction in Portland. This plan included using both minority employees and minority-owned construction firms.

Posey and Hansen have received national recognition for accomplishing what many in the construction community had been saying for years could not be done, i.e. using minority workers and minority-owned firms on technically complex construction projects. Tri-Met, the minority contractors and the prime contractor on the Interstate Avenue project all cooperated to make the project a success, and they proved that it can be done.

Youth represent the future of the African-American community, and the final award category focuses on them. Academic Achievement Awards will be presented to high school seniors who have maintained a 3.0 grade point average or above. A number of younger students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement will also be honored.

For the banquet agenda and further information, see the NAACP website: www.naacpvanc.org and click on "events."