

Academic Programs - Black Studies

A program to develop responsible and effective racial integration has been adopted by Lindenwood College, St. Charles, Mo., 141 year old private liberal arts college related to the United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

As described by Lindenwood President John Anthony Brown, the program consists of seven steps developed after more than a year of planning with administration, faculty and trustees of the college, and discussions with Negro leaders in the greater St. Louis area.

The program stresses, Brown said, a responsible approach to effective integration in higher education. "Merely opening the doors to black students wishing to apply for admission in many schools has resulted in frustration, tokenism and increased racial unrest. Few liberal arts colleges in the United States have been successful in efforts to bring about effective racial integration," he added, "and church-related colleges have perhaps a poorer record on this matter than independent institutions and the public sector."

The seven steps toward responsible integration at Lindenwood College are:

1. The college curriculum must include recognition of the role of the Negro in American society. Large numbers of Negro students cannot be integrated into an institution which academically ignores their cultural heritage.
2. Library resources must also be strengthened to reflect the needs of an integrated community. Material on race relations, Negro history, African literature and related areas are essential to curriculum development in these fields.

3. Integration of the faculty and administration must be achieved along with integration of the student body. Black students need persons in positions of authority who are black that they can "look up to." Integration of the Board of Directors is also desirable.

4. An effective program of counseling and guidance must be available, preferably from a counselor who is black. Provisions for individual tutoring should be established as needed to compensate for inadequate preparation at the secondary school level.

5. New sources of financial aid must be found to assist those students who are economically disadvantaged.

6. Recruitment of Negro students must be as vigorously pursued as the recruitment of any other student, if not more so. Just opening the doors will not result in effective racial integration. Black students must be sought for the valid contributions which they can bring to classroom discussion, not as objects of humanitarian largess.

7. These efforts at effective racial integration must not be limited to the college campus, but must extend into the community surrounding the college.

Lindenwood College has achieved some degree of success in each of the seven steps outlined above, President Brown related. For many years the college has enrolled a few Negro students. Ten percent of the students in the freshman class admitted in September, 1968 come from Negro and Puerto Rican environments. A Negro has been employed as an Instructor in English and as a counselor to students. A Negro attorney has been elected to the college's Board of Directors. The curriculum has been expanded to include courses in the history of the Negro in America, the economics of poverty, race and ethnic relations, urban social problems, and the literature of emerging nations. Within the availability of limited resources, library materials have been acquired to supplement the curriculum.

Funds are needed, Brown said, to assist the college in the recruitment of additional Negro students, to provide tutoring and remedial reading assistance during the January, 1969 term, to further strengthen library resources, and to provide scholarship funds for disadvantaged students.

"Small liberal arts colleges have the opportunity to train the responsible Negro leaders our country needs if we are willing to accept responsibility and approach it systematically and with an understanding of all its ramifications. We believe that the steps we have taken at Lindenwood College are in the right direction," Brown declared.