

New Information on the First Black Graduates of the University of Notre Dame

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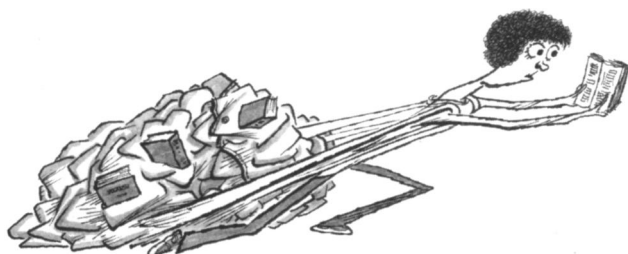


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## More Than 2.2 Million African Americans Are Now Enrolled in Higher Education

The U.S. Department of Education has released preliminary data on total enrollments in higher education in the fall of 2007. The data shows that in 2007 there were 1,052,166 African Americans enrolled in four-year college programs. Nearly 62 percent of all black students enrolled in four-year programs attended state-operated universities. For whites enrolled in four-year programs, 66.5 percent attended state-operated colleges and universities.



There were another 912,978 African Americans enrolled in two-year community college programs. More than 46 percent of all black undergraduate students were enrolled in two-year community colleges compared to 40 percent of white undergraduates.

In addition, 230,233 blacks were enrolled in graduate programs and another 25,043 blacks were enrolled in professional schools.

All told, there were more than 2.2 million African Americans enrolled in higher education in the fall of 2007.

## New Information on the First Black Graduates of the University of Notre Dame

Several years ago *The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* conducted research to determine the first black graduates of the nation's highest-ranked universities. At that time we reported that the first black graduate of the University of Notre Dame was Frazier L. Thompson. He arrived on the Notre Dame campus in July 1944 as a member of a naval officers' training program. When the war ended, he stayed on at the school and earned a varsity letter as a sprinter on the track team in both 1945 and 1946. Unable to find a job as an engineer, after graduation Thompson worked for the Postal Service. In 1955 he finally landed an engineering

position with International Resistor Corporation. He later tested space suits for a NASA contractor.

Thompson was the first black student on campus, but university records now show that a second black student also received a bachelor's degree on the same day in 1947 that Thompson graduated. Carl Richard Coggins enrolled at Notre Dame in February 1945, also as a member of the naval officers' training program. He was called to active duty in July 1946. However, Coggins was awarded a bachelor's degree at the June 1947 commencement ceremony. Records do not indicate how Coggins completed his degree requirements spending only 17 months on the Notre Dame campus, but university officials believe he probably arrived at the university with a significant number of college credits.

After completing his service in the Navy, Coggins returned to Notre Dame to earn a master's degree in civil engineering in 1952. The university has no records about



## University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Dean, School of Arts and Sciences Dean, School of Business and Management

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) invites nominations and application for the position of Dean, School of Arts and Sciences. Founded in 1873, the University is a multi-cultural, land grant institution and one of 103 Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the United States. It is located in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, approximately 42 miles southeast of Little Rock and has an enrollment of more than 3,000 students. The University's 42 baccalaureate and three master's degree programs are administered through four schools: Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences; Arts and Sciences; Business and Management; and Education. UAPB is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission/North Central Association (NCA), and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), and by several discipline accrediting organizations.

**Minimum Qualifications:** An earned doctorate from an accredited university, a record of professional activity and service commensurate with an appointment to the rank of professor, successful academic leadership and administrative experiences, research and grant-development experience, and proven commitment to fostering diversity and excellence in scholarship and teaching.

**Application Process:** Send letters of application to: Human Resources Department, Mail Slot 4942, 1200 North University Drive, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601 by May 22, 2009 or until filled. Expected starting date is July 1, 2009.

Applications must include a letter of interest; curriculum vita; names and addresses of three references; and a statement of leadership philosophy.

*The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff is an equal opportunity, affirmative action, equal access institution.*

what happened to Coggins after he left Notre Dame. However, federal government records show that he died in 1984.

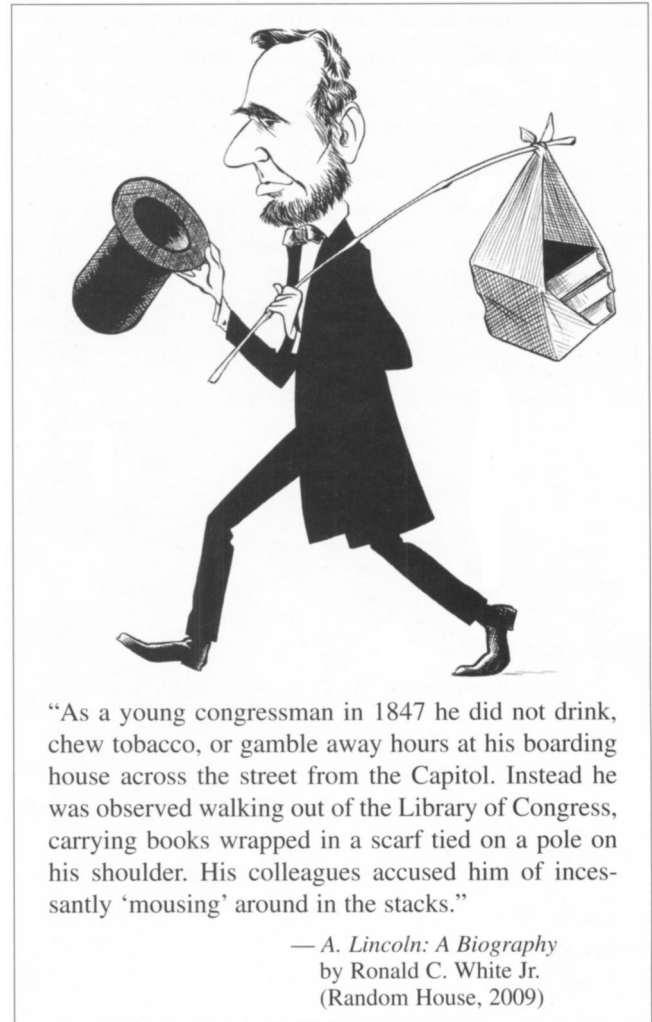
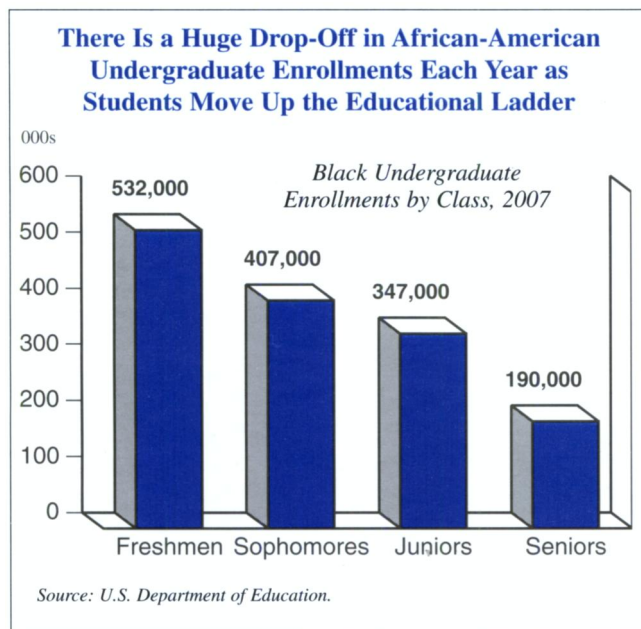
### ❑ Each Year There Are Hundreds of Thousands of African-American College Dropouts

Often when JBHE or other publications report graduation rates of African-American college students the discussion is presented in terms of percentages. But this tends to obscure the fact of how many African-American people are harmed by having to actually drop out of school.

For example, in the 1997 to 2000 period nearly 267,000 black students enrolled as freshmen at the 320 colleges and universities that make up Division I of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Of these, only 44 percent went on to earn a diploma within six years. Therefore, a huge number of nearly 150,000 blacks entered these schools but did not graduate.

The problem of African-American college dropouts is best illustrated by the number of blacks who are enrolled in colleges and universities nationwide as freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. As shown in the accompanying chart, there is a significant drop-off each year in African-American enrollments as students progress toward a four-year degree.

This data confirms that there are hundreds of thousands of young blacks who drop out of college each year. African-American college graduates have median incomes nearly equal to whites. If these hundreds of thousands of black students



were able to stay in college and earn a degree, there would be a major impact in reducing racial inequality in the U.S.

### ❑ Black Progress in Nursing School Enrollments

The U.S. Department of Labor predicts that the demand for nurses will grow substantially over the next decade due to an aging population and an increased need for healthcare services. This will worsen what is already an acute shortage of nursing professionals in some areas.

Data from the U.S. Department of Education shows that in 2006 there were 18,000 African Americans enrolled in bachelor's degree programs in nursing. They made up 12 percent of all undergraduate nursing students. This is a marked improvement since 1990. At that time there were 6,862 blacks enrolled in undergraduate nursing programs. They made up 9.9 percent of all nursing students.

Illustration: Chris Morris