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Metro Celebrates Black History Month with Special Events

BY JIMMY STROUP

(Feb. 3, 2006) As they've done in previous years, Metro employees have organized several events throughout the month of February to reflect on the trials and victories of African Americans as they celebrate Black History Month.

This year's events so far have featured the screening of a *Nightline* episode that detailed the story of a "secret" 1944 basketball game in which an all-black North Carolina College for Negroes team played against an all-white Duke School of Medicine team—making it probably the first integrated intercollegiate game played in American history.

Attorney George Parks of the County Counsel's office played for the North Carolina College team during that historic game.

Earlier this week, the Metro African American Employees Association (AAEA) sponsored a speech by Dr. Toni-Mokjaetji Humber from the Ethnic and Women's Studies Department at Cal Poly, Pomona. Humber spoke on African heritage and influence in pre-historical Mexico.

On Feb. 9, the AAEA will host "Poet's Corner" from noon to 1 p.m. in the Windsor conference room on the 15th floor of the Gateway Building. The event will showcase poetic readings with subjects relating to issues and figures in black history.

'Dream Keepers' event

On Feb. 22, Metro Choir will host an hour-long celebration called "Dream Keepers" featuring Deputy CEO John Catoe and South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey, and thematic songs performed by the Metro Choir.

Guest vocalists from the Second Baptist Church of Monrovia and several members of the Civic Center Choir will complement Metro Choir's 30 volunteer members for this event, one of the biggest performances the choir does every year.

The "Dream Keepers" program will be held from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 22, on the Plaza level of the Gateway Building. The Bus Operations Center on the 6th floor will also feature elaborate African decorations available for viewing on the same day.

"We will honor our past and embrace our future. We will pay homage to African American people who have made significant contributions not only to our culture, but also to society as a whole," Metro Choir Director Renee Willis said.

"We regularly reflect on the struggles of the past, as well as the accomplishments of our people," she added. "We have so much to celebrate."

