

SUMMER IS COMING



Dudley Williams (left) and Dmitri Stockton (right) of GE Asset Management present a SEEK donation to NSBE National Chair Calvin A. Young III, during NSBE's 39th Annual Convention. (March 27, 2013)



SEEK Mentor Tryouts (March 29, 2013)

His past March, NSBE Executive Director Carl B. Mack, a.k.a. “Brother E.D.,” got to enjoy not one but two homecomings of the National Society of Black Engineers. His second homecoming was in Indianapolis, Ind., with more than 9,000 other persons who gathered in Region IV for NSBE’s 39th NSBE Annual Convention. The first one was a week before the convention in his hometown of Jackson, Miss. There, a large group came together on March 21 for a press conference announcing a new location for NSBE’s **Summer Engineering Experience for Kids (SEEK) Academy**.

SEEK is designed to help the U.S. meet its goal of producing more engineers, by exposing students in kindergarten through grade 12 to basic concepts in science and engineering. Each year, the program has three-week summer academies in African-American communities: places that have too few pre-college engineering students. There, the young SEEK participants are taught and guided by NSBE collegiate members from across the country — “SEEK mentors” — in team-based, hands-on engineering design activities. SEEK is competitive: the teams try to outdo each other to put on the best oral presentations of their projects and to design and build the best devices, such as miniature solar cars, “gravity cruisers,” “gliders” and more. SEEK, the largest program of its type in the country, is also a lot of fun.

This summer, the fun will come to Jackson for the first time, thanks to the generosity of Northrop Grumman Corporation, which made a \$200,000 donation, and Pastor Jerry Young of New Hope Baptist Church, which will host the program in the church’s facilities. The SEEK Academy in Jackson will have 300

girls in grades 3–5, who will be guided by 50 female mentors: the first time an all-female SEEK program has been held. The mayor of the city, Harvey Johnson Jr., spoke at the press conference where the program was announced. Among those representing NSBE’s student-leaders at the event were Sade Ruffin, a Ph.D. student in chemical engineering, who will be a SEEK mentor in Jackson, and Dominick Sanders, president of NSBE’s Jackson State University Chapter. Brother E.D.’s former junior high school principal, Charles Tillman, was also on hand. He is now a member of Jackson’s City Council.

SEEK is on track to have academies in nine other cities this summer: Brooklyn, N.Y., Denver, Colo., Detroit, Mich., Houston, Texas, New Orleans, La., Oakland, Calif., Philadelphia, Pa., San Diego, Calif., and Washington, D.C.

HONOR WHERE IT’S DUE

Thursday, March 28 was SEEK’s big day at the 39th Annual Convention, but the program also took center stage on Wednesday evening with some big news announced at the convention’s Opening Session. Dmitri Stockton, an African American who is president and chief executive officer of GE Asset Management, presented NSBE with a ceremonial check for \$600,000 from GE Foundation, to support SEEK over the next three years!

EXPERIENCE

SOON!



SEEK Mentor Information Session (March 28, 2013)

engineering at SUNY University at Buffalo. Later that evening, former mentors enjoyed a light meal and conversation with prospective mentors and other NSBE members, at a SEEK Mentors Reception. NSBE National Chair Calvin A. Young III attended the reception and told the attendees he would be a SEEK mentor this year, in Brooklyn, N.Y.

“The other thing I want to do is give honor where honor is due,” he added, “first to Brother E.D., because (SEEK) has been like his brainchild...and also to the SEEK staff. They do an amazing, amazing job.”

NSBE’s SEEK activities at the Annual Convention were a great success, reports SEEK Manager Sharifa Vinson.

“From our Information Sessions on Thursday and Friday, we got a ton of (recruits)...” she said. “It was standing room only. And from those, (many) signed up for on-site interviews. We had (prepared) for 50 interviews, but so many people came that we were double-booked. We actually did on-site hiring for a lot of (individuals). The numbers far exceeded expectations, and we were exhausted in the end, but it was awesome.”

After taking a collective breath, the SEEK Department got back to business after the convention, preparing for another event: a SEEK Site Leader Training Summit, held at NSBE World Headquarters on April 19–20.

SEEK was founded in 2007 with a \$1-million grant from founding sponsor Battelle and has been held each year since then. The curriculum for the Academy is provided by NSBE’s partner in SEEK, SAE International (the Society of Automotive Engineers) and by San Diego Gas & Electric Company.

For more information about serving as a SEEK mentor or to register a child for the Academy, visit www.nsbe.org. ■



Press conference announcing the all-girls SEEK Academy in Jackson, Miss. (March 21, 2013)

“NSBE’s SEEK program is a perfect example of the type of effort that must continue to flourish if we’re all going to be successful,” he said. “We must focus on increasing young students’ aptitude in math and science and their interest in STEM careers.”

Thursday featured three events designed to help NSBE’s SEEK Department fill the job openings for mentors this summer. First was a SEEK Mentor Information Session, where prospective mentors learned about the program from NSBE World Headquarters staff and from former SEEK mentors. The Information Session was followed immediately by interviews of college students interested in becoming mentors.

A few hours later, at the Thursday General Session, major supporters of the Summer Engineering Experience for Kids filled the stage to receive SEEK Awards from Brother E.D., SEEK Director Franklin O. Moore and members of NSBE’s National Executive Board. The 2012 SEEK Mentors of the Year were also recognized: Renee Manson, now a first-year law student at the University of Virginia; Chinedu Ndum, a recent graduate of Frostburg State University’s engineering physics program; and Shanney Lacey, a senior in industrial and system operations

