

# JOE AND JO COLLEGE

By **Stories by Vicki Vass**  
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**W**ith an increasing number of adults returning to the classroom, South Suburban College has placed a special emphasis on a specific subgroup: the minority student. Efforts have targeted students from the neighboring communities of Markham and Harvey.

In addition, college officials are working on plans to retain the minority students already attending, paying particular attention to their special needs. "We don't offer specific plans (only) for minority students," said Lloyd Batts, director of enrollment management. "We try to target the areas where they are."

Such efforts include recruiting the support of church leaders within areas traditionally high in minority enrollment, particularly in encouraging students to take school seriously, Batts said.

As a recognition for the Year of the Woman, Lorna Anderson, South Suburban's manager for minority affairs, and a panel compiled a list of 20 successful minority women from the area who serve as role models for the area. Among the women recognized were Jeanette Shivers, principal of Warren Palm School in Hazel Crest; Dr. Marie Wilson-Marshall of Flossmoor and her sister, Dr. Carline Wilson Quander of Crete, medical doctors who work in Park Forest; and Ald. Gloria Taylor of Harvey.

Retention strategies have been mapped out for South Suburban staff to follow, said Robert Marshall, vice president of student services. The school has started a program called prescriptive counseling, which pairs students with a counselor. Following their first meeting, the counselor writes a prescription for success, which may include lightening classloads, requiring attendance at seminars and coping with test anxiety and time management. The prescription is added to the individual's file.

"The student must satisfy the prescription," he said.

Since its inception, the program has increased retention, Marshall said. It started in fall of 1992 with meetings between the counselor and students whose grade point average was below 1.5.

"There's a need for increased sensitivity on the part of staff members. Persons coming from minority (backgrounds) may not be recognized as a full-fledged able student," Marshall said, adding they are working on increased education for everyone.

Another program is making sure there is adequate financial planning on the part of the minority student, suburban counselors and staff who adopt 6th and Calumet City. The staff person serves as a

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mentor from 7th grade through high school. The process includes showing the student how to set up a savings plan for college. Although the program is geared at minorities, other students are welcome to participate.

Fall enrollment at South Suburban was 28 percent black, 62 percent white, slightly less than 5 percent Hispanic and another 5 percent Native American or other. For Batts, all this means is a little special effort.

"We try to instill in them (minority students) the importance of an education and their future goals so they will never be distracted from where they'd like to be in 10 or 15 years," he said.

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