

INTRODUCTION TO PROJECT 400

As has been previously stated, further and more active commitments in the areas of financial assistance, recruitment, retention and other supportive services for minority students are needed. The program we have designed, Project 400, will provide the necessary and proper means to meet these needs. This Project 400 proposal has been designed to be initiated in the Fall of 1973.

Students may come from anywhere, however, they will be specifically recruited from Minneapolis, Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, Omaha, Quad Cities, Milwaukee, and other areas as may be deemed appropriate by the program director. Students admitted to the program will be required to participate in certain mandatory aspects of the program such as study tables, tutorial sessions, reading and writing clinics, basic study skills proficiency, etc. Admission to the program will be determined by the program director and Project 400 committee.

Criteria for selection into the program consists of the following:

1. Minority student and/or disadvantaged.
2. Student must have some potential, as indicated by teacher's recommendation, test scores, community representative, etc.
3. Generally, Iowa State University grade point requirement will be observed; however, the program director and Project 400 committee will observe the right to make exceptions.
4. Student must contract to fulfill mandatory requirements of the program. Financial aid will be contingent upon fulfillment of said contract.
5. Students are required to take designated tests to determine reading, math and other aptitude levels.
6. Students must avail themselves to vocational counseling.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

As pointed out earlier one of the most important goals of Project 400 is to increase the minority enrollment of Iowa State University. This will prove beneficial for all students in that it would provide a greater opportunity for minority students to replenish their cultural identity within a predominately white institution, and will tremendously increase the probability of Black and White student interaction which should be of great benefit to the entire ISU community. Interaction between races is especially crucial in a rural state like Iowa in that for many White students ISU is the first, and if they return to their rural communities, often their only opportunity to associate with Black people on an informal social level.

We feel it is important that today's potential leaders of White society become more educated about the Black experience so that they will better understand the struggle Black people face to survive within a White society. This is critical if we are to promote understanding and democracy for all and to affectively alleviate some of the racial hostilities and prejudices that are the results of sheer ignorance. Finally, it would allow more Black people to get good educations, which are becoming mandatory to efficiently function within this society.

The special admissions officer of Project 400 will provide more extensive and selective interviews and orientations for all prospective high school students for the program. Appointment of a person specifically for this position will enable him to expend the appropriate amount of time in a given location to meet with prospective students as a group and/or on an individual basis as needed. He will be qualified to approach the people who don't know what higher education is all about, to explain to them the academic discipline necessary for survival at ISU, to explain the problems encountered by minority students in the past, and to help them decide if this is the institution which can best meet their career needs.

The extensive orientations will be designed to help incoming students avoid some of the problems and mistakes that students before them have faced. Such orientations are certainly a job that cannot be effectively handled through regular admissions. Assistant Dean of Students, Robert Lott, cannot be expected to successfully take on these additional tasks.

The special financial aids officer of Project 400 will deal exclusively with