

*Black
Environmental
Science
Trust*

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*Paving the way to a brighter
Environmental Future*

The President

Warren Washington, President and co-founder of the Black Environmental Science Trust (BEST), and first President of the American Meteorological Society, realized as a high school student that he wanted to devote his entire professional life to scientific research. Pursuit of this goal led him to earn a doctoral degree in physics and atmospheric science from Pennsylvania State University and ultimately, accept a position as a scientist with the National Center for Atmospheric Research in 1963.

There Washington earned acclaim as an expert in global warming and one of a group of scientists who developed computer models that stimulate possible effects of natural and technological phenomena on climate. In 1987, he became director of NCAR's Global Dynamics Division where he continues his work,

Concern that he is one of only a handful of African Americans in his field prompted him, in 1990, to co-found BEST in memory of his late wife. BEST is a not-for-profit foundation which promotes environmental science education for African American students.

Philosophy

More frequently than other segments of the population, urban blacks inhabit population centers laden with such adverse environmental negatives as air, noise, industrial and medical pollution, as well as lead-paint and asbestos poisoning. Inordinate, rural blacks are exposed to pesticides, landfill pollutants and toxic wastes. Added to these is exposure to the effects of destructive man-made and natural compounds in the atmosphere, a problem common to all segments of the population.

Placement of informed and articulate African American voices in policy-making, academic, research and industrial positions -- where environmental decisions are formulated and implemented -- can help assure American blacks that environmental equity is duly emphasized during ecological remediation.

In this truism BEST found its mission. Ultimately, BEST will make even very young African American students aware of the variety of career options that can prepare them to participate in the cleanup of America.

Mission

The Black environmental Science Trust is a multi-donor foundation established to increase African American contributions to shaping the environmental future of our nation and the world. Using funds engendered through its won fund-raising effort, as well as through grants, BEST will prepare African American youth to penetrate the institutional barriers that prevent their full participation in helping resolve environmental issues. BEST will fund scholarships, act as mentors to its scholars and enlighten all accessible African American youth regarding applicable skills options and the value of their environmental involvement.

BEST

Black Environmental Science Trust

Strategic Plan

The Black Environmental Science Trust (BEST) was created to support African-American students, from middle school through doctoral programs, in their quests for careers in the environmental sciences.

PHASE I

BEST will begin the effort by enlisting support from the African American academic community. Interested parties from Metropolitan State and Front Range Community Colleges have been suggested. The list of contacts will also include Denver University, the University of Colorado (Boulder and satellite campuses), community colleges, and Denver and Aurora public schools.

BEST will seek support from such minority publications as Black Enterprise, Ebony and Essence magazines, and local black newspaper the Urban Spectrum, such organizations as black employment support organization the Urban League and the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce, communities with high concentrations of black residents, as well as black consulting firms and contractors.

BEST will also establish relationships with the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, National Oceanic and Astrophysics Agency, National Institute of Standards Technology, Federal Aviation Agency, American Meteorological Society, and National Science Foundation for advice and support.

BEST will network with such successful minority organizations as Mi Casa (a Hispanic support organization that educates small business owners and individuals in skills required to succeed financially, emotionally and socially in today's society) to determine what they consider sustaining values and activities.

BEST will work with environmental organizations by addressing issues of environmental equity.

Fund-raising activities will begin, as soon as feasible following completion of this plan, through the following activities:

- I. Writing proposals to the EPA and other funding institutions for small seed-money grants.**
- II. Sale of a tee-shirt and posters designed by a Denver school student in a BEST logo art contest -- to be judged by a panel of BEST and peer representatives.**
- III. Bake sales and other fund-raisers held by students on all academic levels.**
- IV. Sale of a professional profile directory to university graduate departments, placement agencies and environmental firms. This effort, will assist in minority career placement while raising money for the scholarship fund. Each profile will be very inclusive, thereby providing prospective graduate schools and employers complete pictures of prospective students, interns and employees.**