



E-Update

August, 2009

Richmond VFZ Continues Outstanding Performance:

Once again, Richmond police report that the Violence-Free Zone at Richmond's George Wythe High School is not only reducing crime at the school but is affecting the surrounding neighborhood. According to the Richmond Police Department, motor vehicle thefts were reduced from 132 the previous school year period to only 51 this past year. This is a reduction of 63%, and the police cite the influence of the VFZ. The Richmond program is implemented at Wythe by The Richmond Outreach Center (The ROC).

Students in the Richmond VFZ also showed significant behavioral and academic improvement over the year. Average results for 84 students who were enrolled at least nine weeks (one marking period), included:

- 45% reduction in negative incidents
- 55% reduction in numbers of out-of-school suspensions
- 50% reduction in number of days suspended
- 20% reduction in number of days absent
- 8% increase in GPA (grade point average)

The Violence-Free Zone program targets the disruptive students for special mentoring, usually about 10% of the student body at each school, thereby affecting the overall school climate. As previously reported in E-Update, the high school had an overall reduction in incidents (all reported violent and non-violent behaviors) of 16%. Police also reported an 18% reduction in service calls to the school.

Financial Literacy Program Nearing Goal; Women Most Involved:

As of July 31, the CNE/HSBC financial literacy training program had reached 4079 low or middle-income adults, well on the way to the goal of 5,000 for the year. Participant questionnaires show that more women (62%) than men demonstrate interest in financial management education. Some 65% of the attendees earn less than \$30,000 and 65% rent or live with someone else. Sixty-seven percent are African American, 13% Hispanic, and 14% white.

Woodson to Speak at Inaugural Steamboat Institute Conference:

CNE President Bob Woodson will open the first conference of the newly-created Steamboat Institute with a luncheon address August 28 in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The conference also will feature Michael Reagan, son of President Ronald Reagan, Reps. Mike Pence and Michele Bachman, and Grover Norquist, founder of Americans for Tax Reform. Panels on economic and fiscal policy, health care reform, climate change legislation, and Hispanic voting trends also will be convened. www.steamboatinstitute.org.