

# THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR GIFTED CHILDREN

## Minority Gifted Project

### Project Rationale

Few national groups have taken a role in sponsoring the development of programs for minority gifted children, and (as far as we can determine) none have the AAGC's national standing and specialization in the needs of gifted children. Minority gifted children have attracted genuine interest in a number of states, but discussions with educators in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and San Francisco shows that these are very localized efforts. Many programs are school-based, some are associated with universities, and most seem to have been tailor-made for an existing minority population in the immediate vicinity without the benefit of advice from others who had done similar things elsewhere.

The AAGC should make the needs of minority gifted children one of our priorities because:

- ° there are many gifted children among the minority communities throughout America; their special needs seem to have been addressed only occasionally, if at all, on a national level
- ° these children are in particular risk of having their needs overlooked by a well-meaning society when broader social and economic issues affecting minority group members are addressed
- ° the need is greatest for a national information exchange among those involved in local efforts, and for encouraging and helping family and community leaders to meet the needs of these children
- ° the AAGC is particularly well-positioned to develop programs in this area in light of our national stature and our emphasis on the roles played by the gifted child's family and community
- ° funding is readily available for programs addressing the needs of minority group children

### Program Suggestions

Subject to review by a Minority Gifted Task Force to be appointed, three directions are suggested for early consideration.

- ° Publications. Attention is needed to the minority gifted experience, which could be publicized in a number of ways:
  - a) a publication that combines the features of a resource book and includes a minority group version of our immensely popular On Being Gifted.

- b) a compendium of programs which would provide details of services, key resource people, eligibility criteria, etc.
- c) a collection of impressions about successful Americans who were minority group gifted in their youth by people who knew them (e.g., teachers, parents, religious leaders)
- d) a Guidepost dealing with the needs of minority gifted children (which can be written and disseminated with very modest funding)

A record of reflections by youngsters who are from minority groups and are gifted is needed for the same reason our pioneering work was needed for mainstream gifted, and then some. Many minority group gifted feel they are out of place because they are smart and have nowhere to go in a white-dominated society, with few trailblazers, role models or mentors to guide them. Publicizing the experiences and feelings of a representative sampling would provide emotional support and, possibly, inspiration. It would also help project a more positive image of minority group children to the rest of society.

- ° Parental Guidance. AAGC should consider developing and disseminating a model that Black parents can use to help each other provide the best opportunities to their children. One possibility would be a support group for minority parents along the same lines as the SENG program. Also, a specialized minority parent group could be piloted which would ultimately present a model for guiding these parents in their interface with their own gifted children and with school programs.
- ° Conferences. Either a separate conference should be devised for parents of minority gifted children or more workshops addressing their special needs should be included in the AAGC conference. We should try to provide financial assistance for a limited number of families who do not have the resources to pay their own way.

Our efforts should begin with programs targeted at the needs of Black gifted children which might later be modified and applied to children from other ethnic groups - Hispanic, American Indian, Asian. We were cautioned at the outset that each ethnic group has distinct needs, stemming from cultural, family and geographic differences. We would focus on the needs of Black gifted children simply because we have to start somewhere and our Board includes a prominent Black psychologist with extensive national contacts.

In devising programs, we should be careful not to be too ambitious. There is such a large vacuum here that it may be tempting to try filling it entirely, which no one organization can do. If we promise too much, we will not be able to deliver and may damage our credibility among important Black organizations who are caught in the ambivalence of looking for attention from a "mainstream" player like the AAGC but skeptical that outsiders can understand and properly address the problems. We should also be mindful that organizations like the Congress of National Black Churches are trying to raise the self-assurance of all Black students by teaching them that they are all special, and are concerned that emphasis on gifted children will dilute the broader effort.

Candidate

Geography

Sex

Minority

Background

Contact

PRIMARY NOMINEES

Arts

✓ Steve Allen  
Joan Ganz Cooney  
George Goodman (Adam Smith)  
Gloria Steinem

California  
N.Y.  
New Jersey  
N.Y.

M  
F  
M  
F

Arts  
Arts/Television  
Arts/Economics  
Arts/Writer

Accepted  
Lydia  
Anne  
Lydia/Anne

Business

Charles Cleworth or Shelia  
John Creedon  
✓ Harold Finley  
Luther Hodges  
James G. Kemper, Jr.  
Peter Maloney  
John Ong  
Pfizer - To be identified  
Robert Posnak  
Felix Rohatyn  
Steve Stamos

Colorado  
N.Y.  
Illinois  
D.C.  
Illinois  
Pennsylvania  
Ohio  
N.Y.  
N.Y.  
N.Y.  
N.Y.

M/F  
M  
M  
M  
M  
M  
M  
M  
M  
M  
M

Business/Publishing  
Business/Insurance  
Business/Investments  
Business/Banking  
Business/Insurance  
Business/Steel  
Business/Rubber  
Business/Pharmaceuticals  
Business/Accounting  
Business/Investments  
Business/Foundation/Ecology

Anne  
Ira/Anne  
Accepted  
Lydia  
Gavin  
Mark  
Mark  
Mark  
Ira  
Phil Briggs  
Mark/Anne

Education

William Danforth  
Arlene DeVries  
Harlan P. Hanson, Ph.D.  
Paige Mulholland, Ph.D.  
Alvin Poussaint  
John Slaughter  
Richard P. Unsworth

Mo.  
Iowa  
N.Y.  
Ohio  
Massachusetts  
Md.  
Massachusetts

M  
F  
M  
M  
M  
M  
M

Yes  
Yes  
Yes

Education/Philanthropy  
Education  
Education  
Education  
Education  
Education  
Education

B. Kerr  
Accepted  
Accepted  
Accepted  
Rod  
C. Hathaway  
Anne

Gifted/Parent

James Gallagher, Ph.D.  
Andrea Kramer  
Rosalie Morris

North Carolina  
Michigan  
Georgia

M  
F  
F

Gifted  
Parent/Gifted  
Parent/Publishing

Jim  
Accepted  
Accepted

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Geography</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Minority</u>	<u>Background</u>	<u>Contact</u>
<u>Government</u>					
Cong. Mario Biaggi	N.Y.	M		Government	Jim?
Sen. William Fulbright	Ark	M		Government	Lydia
Senator Daniel Inouye	Hawaii	M	Yes	Government	Jim?
<u>Medicine/Science</u>					
Morris Green, M.D.	Indiana	M		Medicine	Accepted
Maxine Hayes, M.D.	Washington	F	Yes	Medicine	Ann/Jim
Heinz Pagels, Ph.D.	N.Y.	M		Science	Lydia
Lee Salk, Ph.D.	N.Y.	M		Psychologist	Accepted
Rosalyn Yarrow, Ph.D.	N.Y.	F		Science	Lydia/Mark?
<u>Philanthropy</u>					
Edith Bingham	Kentucky	F		Philanthropy	Anne
Phyllis Collins	N.Y.	F		Philanthropy	Lydia/Mark?
Evelyn Lauder	N.Y.	F		Philanthropy	Lydia/Mark?
David Matthews	Ohio	M		Foundation	Harry
<u>ALTERNATE NOMINEES</u>					
<u>Akers (IBM)</u>					
Isaac Asimov	N.Y.	M		Business	John Creedon
George Betts, Ph.D.	N.Y.	M		Science/Writer	?
Lewis Branscomb, Ph.D.	Colorado	M		Gifted	Jim/Anne
(or successor)	N.Y.	M		Business/Science	Lydia
Bill Cosby	New England	M	Yes	Arts	Jim
Dart-Kraft (To be identified)	Illinois	M		Business	John Creedon
Phil Donahue	California	M		Arts	Jim
Marge Gates	N.Y.	F		Social Service	Mark/Anne
Charlayne Hunter Gault	N.Y.	F	Yes	Arts	Anne
Carol Gilligan	Massachusetts	F		Education	Lydia
Grace Hechinger	N.Y.	F		Writer	Ira/Lydia
Gerry Kaplan	N.Y.	M		Business/Investments	Jerry Goodman