

AACIP

AFRICAN AMERICAN COLLEGE INITIATIVE PROGRAM

An Exciting New Program for College Students, Arts Professors and School Administrators

The African American College Initiative Program (AACIP) is Crossroads Theatre Company's newest initiative. AACIP is committed to: establishing a professional collaboration with historically black academic institutions and others with black theatre departments that are actively involved in educating and promoting the arts; providing training grounds for leaders in the arts; empowering future generations to support and protect the African American experience in American Theatre; nurturing the development of new plays for Crossroads' season; and sensitizing audiences to the importance of art as an integral component to quality education.

AACIP began in 1990 when a meeting was held on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C., to begin the dialogue of bridging the gap between theatre and academia. A variety of African American university professors and members of Crossroads' staff engaged in a two-day conference designed to identify ways to collectively promote and preserve the African American art form. The outcome of this collaborative effort resulted in the formulation of AACIP's four components:

ARTS ADVOCACY is designed to share with college students, arts professors and school administrators the importance of art as a vital component of quality education. This is achieved through on-site visits, conferences, and workshops conducted by staff members of Crossroads Theatre Company.

WORKSHOPS/PERFORMANCES are designed to expose students to various arts disciplines by conducting lecture/demonstrations, master classes, workshops, performances and other forums specifically designed to complement participating institutions' arts curriculum.

INTERNSHIPS/APPRENTICESHIPS are designed to create greater educational and work experience for juniors and seniors majoring in the arts. It also provides job opportunities for graduating arts majors.

FACULTY/STUDENT EXCHANGES are designed to enable arts professors to gain practical experience in their field and prepare students for careers in the arts during a two day retreat at Crossroads Theatre Company.

The AACIP institutions include: Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia; Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida; Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia; Howard University in Washington, D.C.; Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Virginia; North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina and North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The program is under the direction of Melanie Daniels-Ford, AACIP Director. Major support for AACIP is made possible by the Lila Wallace Reader's Digest Fund.

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15



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