

CITY - STATE - AND NATIONAL NEWS

Dinita Caldwell Appointed V P of COMTO



Dinita Caldwell

Capital Metro's Dinita Caldwell, interim business development manager and disadvantaged business enterprise officer, has been appointed vice president of the local chapter of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO).

COMTO creates professional and educational opportunities for minorities working in the transportation industry and promotes careers in the field. The Austin chapter provides between \$2,000 and \$3,000 in scholarships each year to support its members.

Caldwell will serve a two-year term and joins President Blanca Juarez (UT Parking and Transportation), Treasurer Cris Lopez (Veolia Transportation) and Secretary Alta Alexander (TxDOT) on the executive board.

26th Sweatt Symposium on Civil Rights to Focus on Education Crisis for Men of Color

The University of Texas at Austin 26th Annual Heman Sweatt Symposium on Civil Rights begins Feb. 8 with the theme, "Awareness to Action: Advancing Solutions for Men of Color in Higher Education." The symposium includes four panel discussions in February, March and April and culminates with a Heman Sweatt Legacy Award black tie reception. The symposium also includes the second annual University of Texas Latino Male Symposium as special event on May 4.

A 2010 report published by the College Board Advocacy and Policy Center has generated a growing focus on underrepresented groups of men in institutions of higher education. The report connects the disparate educational outcomes of young men with sobering statistics about unemployment, poverty and incarceration. It reveals the lack of success that males of color experience as they navigate the education system in the United States.

In response to the report, this year the Heman Sweatt Symposium on Civil Rights, organized by the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (DDCE), will provide a forum to discuss issues related to the education of young men of color including the



Dr. Gregory J. Vincent, VP for Diversity

latest research and best practices.

Gregory J. Vincent, vice president for diversity and community engagement, said, "The symposium focuses on solutions to the challenges outlined in the College Board report. There are a number of programs on campuses and in communities that successfully address issues faced by young men of color — we need to share the knowledge broadly and encourage others to face this issue head on."

Special attention will be paid to African American, Asian American, Native American and Latino males at different symposium events.

The symposium is sponsored by the DDCE with support from colleges and departments across campus and the College Board. For more information about the symposium, visit

<http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/events/hemansweatt/>
Schedule of Events
Wednesday, Feb. 8 - Opening Session: Advancing Solutions for Men of Color in Higher Education and the Crisis Facing America

Reception – 5 p.m.
Panel – 6 p.m., John Hargis Hall, 1823 Red River St.

Panelists:

- Kevin Michael Foster, assistant professor, Department of Educational Administration, Center for African and African American Studies, and Department of African and African Diaspora Studies, The University of Texas at Austin
- Mario Garza, executive director, Indigenous Cultures Institute
- Neil Horikoshi, president/executive director, Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund
- Michael Lofton, director, African American Men and Boys Harvest Foundation
- Victor Sáenz, assistant professor, Department of Educational Administration, The University of Texas at Austin
- Ronald Williams (moderator), vice president, The College Board.

All events take place on the UTAustin campus and are free and open to the public. For information contact Jennifer Wang at (512) 475-6064.

Nine-Time Grammy Winner Natalie Cole To Debut With Austin Symphony



The Austin Symphony continues its Centennial Celebration season with a special performance of the Sarah & Ernest Butler Pops on February 10 when nine-time Grammy-winning pop royalty Natalie Cole takes center stage at the Long Center for the Performing Arts. Lancer Resources, LP is providing special Centennial Guest Artist sponsorship and Austin Tree Express serves as concert sponsor for this "unforget-

table" evening with this singing legend.

For one night only, Natalie Cole will perform the hits that have made her the superstar she is today, including special "duet" with her legendary father, Nat King Cole.

Tickets can be purchased at the Symphony Box Office, 11th and Red River or call 476-6064.

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