



EMPLOYMENT | PROPOSALS / PUBLIC INFORMATION FOR SALE | FOR RENT | BIDS | MISCELLANEOUS



Today's HBCU students combine youthful idealism with technical savvy to speak up and make their voices heard

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

don't care. Well, I beg to differ. Activism is alive—and well—on HBCU campuses across the country. Let me tell you about Spelman junior Mary-Pat Hector who this past November

led her colleagues at the all-female school in Atlanta, Ga., on a hunger strike to change a policy that hinders them from assisting classmates that do not have enough to eat. Hector, who also serves as the National Youth Director of the National Action Network, said the strike's purpose was to allow students to transfer portions of their on-campus meal plans to fellow students in need of food. Dozens of students, including some from all-male Morehouse College, a Historically

Black College also in Atlanta, subsisted for several days on liquids and vitamins to bring attention to a problem that persists on many if not all campuses throughout the United States.

As an HBCU alum, it is exciting to see students organized and engaged to make America a better place for future generations. Across the country, HBCU students made their voices heard in 2017 on a variety of issues that directly affect them and their campuses. Perhaps

the most notable HBCU protest of 2017, students at Bethune-Cookman University (Daytona Beach, FL) voiced their displeasure with the selection of Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos as their commencement speaker. When the university declined to replace her as their speaker, several hundred stood and walked out during her address. A few weeks later, U.S. Senator John Cornyn canceled his commencement address at Texas

Southern University after several students complained of his support for voter identification laws and his vote for the confirmation of current Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

It's both admirable and encouraging to see today's HBCU students placing themselves in dialogues about change. As was done by previous generations, these students are not waiting for policymakers or CEOs or other civic leaders to address issues that have long been ignored. Morehouse alum Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is frequently quoted saying, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere" and HBCU students always have and now are exemplify-

ing this mantra. In 1960, students from North Carolina A & T University (Greensboro, NC) staged sit-ins at a local Woolworth to protest the store's segregated lunch counters. Also in 1960, Shaw University (Raleigh, NC) was the site of the first meeting of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. In 2004 and 2008, students from Prairie View A & M University (Prairie View, TX) marched for recognition of their voting eligibility as well as the ability to cast their votes on campus.

On #GivingTuesday, please take the time to show your support for these students and their institutions. To learn more about HBCUs and their students, please visit www.TomJoynerFoundation.org.

The minimum penalty for not having insurance when mandated to do so is \$695, and it can be much higher

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

many of our neighbors—and this word must be spreading, because we have strong enrollment numbers this year despite the political noise.

Some developments are worth noting: President Trump cut the enrollment period in half, slashed 90 percent of public promotion funding that helps inform families about this opportunity, and eliminated 40 percent of the funding for those who help people navigate through the plan selection process. Folks have less time, less help, and less information to study and sign up for the most appropriate plan. This Scrooge-like cruelty will mean more families risk bankruptcy if surprised by a catastrophic accident or diagnosis.

But amidst this heartless obstruction-

ism, there is some good news. Like last year, 8 out of 10 Marketplace consumers are expected to qualify for substantial tax credits. Under the ACA, when premiums increase, your tax credits also go up, likely keeping your premiums in a similar range. Many can still find plan options with premiums between \$50 and \$100 a month.

Some states are trying to fill the information gap. California is spending \$111 million to help get its residents insured. Texas, sadly, is doing nothing—despite the fact that Texas has the highest percentage of uninsured residents in the Nation.

With these barriers, we have to do even more locally to ensure that our neighbors know how to sign up. Local groups, like Insure Cen-

tral Texas, are available and stepping up to help you research plans, networks, and formularies to make it easier to figure out what plan works best for your needs. You can find a local enrollment assistance group by contacting my office or at localhelp.healthcare.gov to help you get your application in and pick the plan that's right for you.

Texans may sign up through the healthcare.gov website. Even if you have a plan already, you might have more or different options in 2018—it is still worth a visit to compare your choices. And if you do not have health insurance, open enrollment is the time to get it. If you experience a medical emergency, insurance brings financial security. Even if you do not have an emergency, it brings



peace of mind.

With so many trying to keep you from getting covered, do not take that right away from yourself by failing to sign up. There is another downside, beside loss of financial security, for failing to exercise your rights: the IRS will reject your tax return if you fail to provide proof of insurance. The minimum penalty for not having insurance when mandated to do so is \$695, and it can be much higher.

Politics in Washington should not keep you from getting covered in Texas. We fought hard—and are continuing to fight hard—to keep the benefits of the Affordable Care Act. During open enrollment this year, from now until December 15, make the most important choice you may make this year. Sign up!

Austin Community College District is soliciting proposals from firms to provide for Student Coaching Services. Request for Proposals (RFP) No 952-18004SM. All proposals must be submitted to the ACC Purchasing Department by no later than Thursday, December 14, 2017, at 2:00 p.m., CST. Solicitation packages will be available on the ACC Purchasing website at <http://www.austinctc.edu/offices/purchasing/advertised-solicitations> or in the ACC Purchasing Office with advance notice at (512) 223-1044 between the hours of 9AM and 4 PM CST, Monday through Friday. All responses must be sealed and returned to the ACC Purchasing Office, ACC Service Center, 9101 Tuscany Way, Austin, Texas 78754, by the date and time indicated above. Electronically transmitted responses will NOT be accepted unless otherwise stated in the documents. Pre-Proposal meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 9:00am at ACC Highland Campus HLC4-1130.02. Note: ACC Business Offices and Campus locations will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday on November 23rd and 24th

Integral Care is currently soliciting proposals through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process for an Electronic Health Record System. RFPs may be sent electronically, by contacting Brody Ballard at brody.ballard@integralcare.org beginning November 20, 2017. The deadline to submit a proposal under the RFP is 4 p.m. CST on January 19, 2018. Historically Underutilized Businesses, including Minority-Owned Businesses and Women-Owned Businesses, are encouraged to apply.

Austin Commercial, Construction Manager-At-Risk, will be soliciting proposals from subcontractors and material suppliers for the construction of ABIA Parking Garage and Administration Offices, Austin Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA), Solicitation Number CLMA018 / CIPID#6001.114. Proposal Package 2 consists of Construction of Parking Garage: Precast, Masonry, Stone, Steel, High-Pressure Laminate Panels, Waterproofing, Fireproofing, Doors, Frames, and Hardware, Paint, Space by Space Detection, Plumbing/HVAC, Fire Protection, Electrical, Solar, Telecom, and Striping. The Proposal Package will be available May 10, 2017 at Dynamic Reprographics, Located at 817 W. 12th Street Austin, Texas 78701, Ph: (512)474-8842, Email: digital@dynamicreprographics.com AND <https://austinindustries.sharefile.com/d-sc44d282b18149229>. Pre-proposal Conference will be held 2:00 PM, May 17, 2017 at Department of Aviation, Room 174 2716 Spirit of Texas Drive Austin, Texas 78719. Austin Commercial will accept proposals for this package May 31, 2017 at 1:00 PM at our office, Attn: ABIA Garage and Admin Bids, 1301 South MoPac Expressway, Suite 310 Austin, Texas 78746. All proposals must be delivered as sealed hard copies. Proposal Selection will be on a best value basis. ALL CITY OF AUSTIN MINORITY AND WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES (MBE/WBES) ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS. The Project's Goals are: African American 1.15%, Hispanic 2.56%, Asian/Native American 0.61%, WBE 1.97%. We encourage and actively solicit proposals from MBE/WBES. Austin Commercial is available at (512) 306-9880 or Fax (512) 306-1180

Flint, Michigan Councilman Sentenced for Pawning Laptop

FLINT, MI (AP)—A Michigan city council member accused of pawning his publicly owned laptop nine times has been ordered to pay \$300 and put in a week's worth of service on a sheriff's work detail.

Flint Councilman Eric Mays learned his punishment on Monday after pleading no contest in August to misdemeanor willful neglect of duty. The Flint Journal reports Genesee County District Court Judge William H. Crawford II said the councilman should focus on "regaining the public's trust."

Mays told the judge he "wishes the



FILE - In this Aug. 23, 2017 file photo, Flint City Councilman Eric Mays looks over paperwork before Judge William H. Crawford arraigns him in Genesee District Court, in Flint, Mich. (Jake May/The Flint Journal-MLive.com via AP, File)

whole thing had not happened," but that he's ready to move forward. Mays was re-elected this month.

Police say Mays

pawned his laptop computer for a \$100 loan on nine occasions over two years. He last got the laptop back in May by paying \$116.

No Investment necessary!
Operate a Stand in your area! December 20th - January 1st . Must be 21 years old or older and must have a travel trailer, RV or pop-up camper to stay on site. If you possess organizational skills, a desire to succeed in a small business setting, then we have a great opportunity for you to generate GREAT money over a relatively short period of time. Call TODAY to see if you and your group qualify ! (512) 303-4438 or (800) 274-4912 Or email info@buyamericanfireworks.com Or Stop by our office at 1315 HWY 71 W, BASTROP, TX 78602 to meet us in person.

austintexas.gov
PURCHASING OFFICE
Are you interested in doing business with the City of Austin?
We are here for you!
City of Austin
Purchasing Office
Vendor Registration
512-974-2018
VendorReg@austintexas.gov
www.austintexas.gov/departments/purchasing
For information on the City of Austin's Minority/Women-Owned Procurement Program please contact the Small & Minority Business Resources at 512-974-7600 or visit www.austintexas.gov/smb.