

# Black students to get scientist mentors

JAY DISKEY Scripps-Howard News Service

MON 07/14/1986 HOUSTON CHRONICLE, Section Discovery, Page 4, NO STAR Edition

## Share

 Share

 Del.icio.us

 Digg

 Twitter

 Facebook

 StumbleUpon

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. - Selected Knoxville College students will be taken under the wing of Oak Ridge scientists this fall as part of a new "science mentor program," the school's president said. The program, which will team students one-on-one with the scientists, will allow students to gain research experience and increase their job prospects, said Robert Shepherd, president of Knoxville College.

"It is a mentor approach to helping young blacks in science," said Shepherd. "These scientists have offered themselves to us."

The black college hopes eventually to assign 15 chemistry or biology students to 15 scientists, Shepherd said. The students will be selected on the basis of their grades, he said.

So far, seven Oak Ridge scientists have offered to serve as mentors, said Dr. Nathaniel Revis, director and president of the Oak Ridge Research Institute, which studies environmental and medical problems. Revis, a doctor and biochemist, said he will serve as a mentor to a student.

Students will work part-time with their mentors during the school year. The program will culminate in a summer internship for each student, Shepherd said.

The program also is expected to help attract science students to the college, Shepherd said.

Traditionally, about 15 percent of the college's students major in the natural sciences. Last year 300 students were enrolled in the school. A 14-state recruiting drive is under way to increase the school's enrollment to 450 by September, Shepherd said.

The college wants to establish the program before seeking outside funding, Shepherd said. "I want to get the program up and running and then go, for example, to the National Science Foundation for funding," Shepherd said.

In addition to working with the students, some mentors will participate on a curriculum committee for the college's natural science program, Shepherd said. The group will help college administrators review and revise the curriculum and keep the school up to date on changes in science education.

"The program is answering two or three problems," Shepherd said. "It's an idea whose time has come."

**Copyright notice:** All materials in this archive are copyrighted by Houston Chronicle Publishing Company Division, Hearst Newspapers Partnership, L.P., or its news and feature syndicates and wire services. No materials may be directly or indirectly published, posted to Internet and intranet distribution channels, broadcast, rewritten for broadcast or publication or redistributed in any medium. Neither these materials nor any portion thereof may be stored in a computer except for personal and non-commercial use.