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# The Collegian

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## Uplifting the Race



Students on-stage: Ala Stanford, Verna Johnson, and Angela Harmon were among those participating in ABC's black history celebration, "Uplifting the Race," last Monday photo by Audrey Acosta

## Plastics lab: one of only six in the nation

Major has 100 percent placement for grads

by Jennifer Flanagan  
Collegian Staff Writer

The plastics engineering department, one of only six in the nation, is "Behrend's best kept secret," says Paul Koch, assistant professor of engineering.

There are only 35 students enrolled in this major which has a 100 percent placement rate for graduating seniors.

It offers the highest starting salary of all Behrend majors and is the second highest paid major in the entire Penn State system. Last year, each graduating senior had between five and ten job offers.

Behrend's plastic engineering department was made possible through major contributions from twenty-four area businesses.

It is the only one in a five hundred mile radius, and its advantage over the other five programs in the nation is its practicality.

The department gains

knowledge and input from Erie area industry which keeps the program up to date.

The area's 98 plastic companies and 50 tool and die shops offer plenty of opportunities for internships which the students complete between their junior and senior years.

If they wish to go elsewhere in the country to serve the required internship, the department will place the student in the area of their choice.

According to Paul Koch, Colorado has been a popular choice and a few students have gone to Virginia Beach. However, 90 percent of the students stay in the tri-county area.

There are several reasons for the lack of programs in the nation.

"It's difficult to teach, difficult to find faculty and money for the lab, and it's an emerging field

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## Faculty survey suggests today's students are more careerist

by Tony Olivito  
Collegian News Editor

"...I think it is true that students are typically more careerist than they were fifteen years ago," stated Dr. Diana Hume George, professor of English.

A survey in the November 8, 1989 issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education* sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching supports Dr. George's opinion.

Of the 5,450 faculty members surveyed, 84 percent agreed, "Undergraduates have become

more careerist in their concerns compared with students in the late 60's and early 70's."

This perceived trend is also reflected in a survey conducted by *The Collegian*.

Of the 50 questionnaires distributed randomly to faculty in the divisions of humanities, engineering and business, fifty-two percent were returned.

Of this sampling, 92 percent agreed that students have become more interested in careers.

Those surveyed also had the opportunity to write any comments about teaching at Behrend or opinions relating to

higher education in America in general.

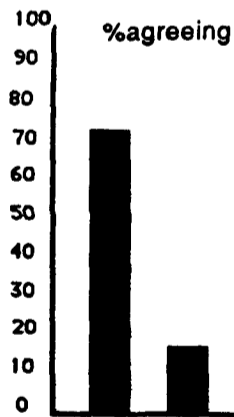
"I am surprised and disappointed each time I confront students' interests in careerism and grades over their interest in learning as an end in itself," replied one faculty member.

In the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Dr. Ernest L. Boyer, president of the Carnegie Foundation, stated many professors feel students are interested in learning only to achieve their career goals.

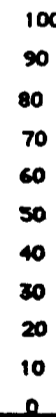
"They only want to know the rules - 'Tell us the formula,'" said

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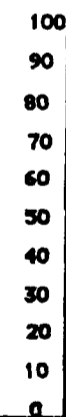
Undergraduates are not getting as good an education as they did five years ago



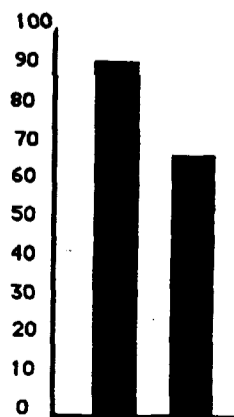
Too many students ill-suited for academic life are now enrolling in colleges



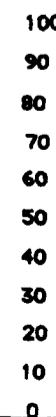
There has been a widespread lowering of standards in American education



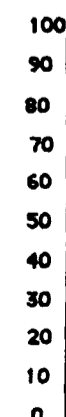
This institution spends too much time and money teaching students what they should have learned in high school



There is more drug abuse among today's undergraduates than five years ago



Undergraduates have become more careerist in their concerns compared with students in the late 60's and early 70's



■ Behrend faculty ■ Carnegie Foundation survey

graphics by Rob Farnham