

CALENDAR

☑ Feb. 12: The Apprentice School women's basketball team will play at Southern Virginia University at 2 p.m.

☑ Feb. 12: The Apprentice School men's basketball team will play at Palm Beach Atlantic University at 7 p.m.

☑ Feb. 14: The Apprentice School women's basketball team will host Meredith College at 5 p.m.

☑ Feb. 14: The Apprentice School men's basketball team will play at Johnson & Wales College at 7 p.m.

☑ Feb. 16: Representatives of Strayer University will answer employees' questions and register students from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Bldg. 500-2 training conference room.

☑ Feb. 24: Newport News will host an American Red Cross Bloodmobile from 7:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. outside Bldg. 103. To schedule an appointment, call 8-9191, option 9. For more information, call 0-3011.

Currents is a weekly publication for employees of Northrop Grumman Newport News.

Submissions may be sent to Jim Roberts at jim.roberts@ngc.com.



"We Must Focus On Our Leadership And Employees."

❖ Two Newport News Employees To Receive Black Engineer Of The Year Awards

Newport News employees **Gregory C. Dudley** and **Elmer V. Dickens** are two of seven Northrop Grumman employees who will be honored at the 19th annual Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA) conference.



Dudley



Dickens

Dickens, an engineer in the CVN 21 Lean Process/Re-engineering Dept. (O83), will receive a Modern Day Technology Leader Award, which recognizes up-and-coming black men and women who are helping shape the future of engineering, science and technology.

The conference, which honors the nation's best and brightest engineers, scientists, executives and educators, will be held from Feb. 19-21 in Baltimore in conjunction with Black History Month.

Dudley, a senior engineer in the Reactor Plant Planning Yard Dept. (E83), will receive a Community Service in Industry Award in recognition of his contributions as a leader and mentor.

"I am both honored and humbled to join the ranks of Black Engineer of the Year Award honorees," Dudley says. "With this achievement, the bar has been raised, and I look forward to the challenge."

"I feel that this achievement is a symbol of the opportunity I have been provided by my department, the CVN 21 Program and Northrop Grumman Newport News," Dickens says. "Even though this is a personal honor, I work with all 'award-winning' people."

Dudley and Dickens have both worked at Newport News since 1997.

The other Northrop Grumman honorees are: **Willie O. Simmons** of the Space Technology sector and **Carl A. Alleyne, Chineta K. Davis, Patricia A. Newby** and **Ronnie L. Starling** of the Electronic Systems sector.

❖ Hispanic Employees Form SHPE Chapter

Newport News employees (left to right) **Juan Carlos Lam** (E47), **Ashley Lewit** (E23) **Joey Melendez** (E37) and **Crystal Spence** (E43) have been elected as the founding executive board of directors for the newly established southeast Virginia chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). The SHPE is a national organization dedicated to promoting the development of Hispanics in engineering, science and other technical professions. Chapter membership includes professionals from Newport News, NASA, Old Dominion University and the U.S. Air Force. For more information, e-mail Juan Carlos Lam at juan.lam@ngc.com or visit the national web site at: <http://www.shpe.org/>. Photo by John Whalen





"We Must Work Collaboratively As A Team To Meet Our Big Goals."

❖ ACE Effort Builds On Process Improvement

Northrop Grumman's Corporate Policy Council (CPC) has initiated a company-wide effort called Achieving Competitive Excellence (ACE), building on the company's continuous process improvement philosophy. Through 10 initiatives involving cross-sector teams and sponsorship at the highest levels of management, ACE is focusing on three basic goals: leveraging the strength of Northrop Grumman's portfolio; driving a more competitive cost structure; and creating flexibility to enable quick response to market shifts.



Sugar

"When things are going well, it's hard to tell people they need to do better," says **Ron Sugar**, Northrop Grumman's chairman, CEO and president. "But that's precisely what we now must do. The competition is not standing still, and it is our challenge for 2005 to make our company even stronger. Great companies define the future -- they don't wait for it to happen. We now have a unique opportunity to define our own future."

Four ACE initiatives -- Cross-Sector Business Development Processes, Procurement, IT Cost and Complexity, and Facilities -- were launched last fall, and a Ship Systems Transformation initiative began in early 2004. The remaining ACE initiatives -- Portfolio Optimization and Alignment, Corporate Office Expense (COE) and Sector Office Expense (SOE), Back-office Support, Best Practices Sharing/Adoption and Cost Variabilization -- will be rolled out in the first half of 2005.

Employees will be informed about the progress of ACE as information becomes available.

"This is an important effort for our company," Sugar says. "We expect the results generated by ACE to help us maximize our cross-sector strengths, create shareholder value and realize our vision to be the world's premier defense enterprise."

❖ ISRs Should Be Sent To New Address

Internal Information Services (IIS) has moved several of its operations to the NetCenter. As a result of the move, Information Services Requests (ISRs) should be sent to: **Maria Banks** (IIS), Bldg. 802, 2nd floor. Urgent requests may be faxed to Banks' attention at 8-9694.

Requests for telephone service or equipment should be sent to: **Bob Pugh** (IIS), Bldg. 86, 1st floor. Urgent requests may be faxed to **Joanna Dillard** (IIS) at 8-6025.

IIS will work to ensure that the move will have no impact to the flow of ISRs.

❖ Groups Co-Hosting Mariners' Museum Event

The Materials Information Society (formerly the American Society for Metals) will host a dinner and presentation on the conservation of the *USS Monitor* on Feb. 10 at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News. The event will be co-hosted by the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), the American Society of Naval Engineers (ASNE) and the Engineers' Club of the Virginia Peninsula (ECVP). For more information, call **Matt Burris** (E24) at 8-2970.



❖ Habitat House Off To A Great Start

Volunteers from Newport News are turning out in record numbers to help build "Labor Management House 3" for Peninsula Habitat for Humanity. More than 30 volunteers showed up on Jan. 8, and more than 25 showed up on Jan. 15, despite temperatures in the 30s. Construction continues at 8 a.m. every Saturday (weather permitting). For more information, visit: <http://www.nn.northropgrumman.com/habitat/>.