

Minority women face steepest climb up corporate ladder

New Study Suggests the Ascent is Trickier Than Ever

OLNEY, Md. -- There are 63 million working women in America, but according to a recent study released by Catalyst, a non-profit research organization that researches women at work [Catalystwomen.org], minority women continue to be severely underrepresented in top corporate leadership positions. Although white women have made minor advances to leadership positions, black women, Asian women and Hispanic women represent only .9 percent, .4 percent, and .3 percent, respectively, of corporate officers in the Fortune 500. What will it take for these women to break through the concrete ceiling of corporate America?

Sylvia Henderson, motivational speaker and career consultant, has personally lived through the struggle these statistics illustrate in order to succeed in the business world as a black woman. She says women must adopt a "blending in" strategy in order to advance in the male-dominated, mostly white, workforce.

In her latest book, *Why You Talk So White?* (V-Twin Press, 2005), Henderson examines the communication behaviors that sabotage the success of blacks and whites alike. The book identifies behaviors that represent professionalism and demonstrate positive work ethics. Advocating the use of proper grammar and diction, Henderson provides steps toward personal improvement and career advancement.

"Even with successful examples like Oprah Winfrey and Condoleezza Rice, there is still a significant lack of black, female executives in the real world," Henderson says. "My passion is to inspire others to think outside their self-identified group - be it race-based, gender-based, or socioeconomic-based - to move forward and succeed without the limitations tied to an archetypal identity."

As a volunteer trainer and Life Member of the Girl Scouts of the USA, Henderson helps young girls realize their potential to become future leaders of America. She is also a member of and Chapter President within the National Speakers Association and a Club Officer of Toastmasters International.

As a source, Henderson can discuss:

- Top behaviors people unknowingly make that undermine their careers
- Interviewing etiquette 101: What NOT to do while interviewing for a job or new position
- Why good use of language skills is the key to your success
- "Talking white" in politics: Why black leaders are often criticized for articulate speech

After graduating from the University of Pittsburgh with a Masters of Business Administration, Henderson spent more than 25 years in human resource development and management positions for large corporations such as AOL, IBM and American Management Systems. Henderson is currently the Founder and CEO of Springboard Training, a business that conducts seminars and workshops promoting professionalism, work ethics and leadership. To learn more, visit www.whyoutalksowhite.com.

To request a review copy of *Why You Talk So White?* or set up an interview with Henderson, please contact Amber Childres at (512) 478-2028 ext 224 or achildres@phenixpublicity.com.