

SAFTE

SOUTH AFRICAN AND NAMBIAN REFUGEES AT LANEY: A FIRST!

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Laney College and the Southern African Freedom Through Education Foundation (SAFTE) announced today that two South African and two Namibian refugees will enroll at Laney for Spring semester, 1989. This breakthrough program marks the first time that a community college in the U.S. will host a contingent of scholarship recipients from those countries. The students will transfer to baccalaureate institutions, such as UC Berkeley, in their junior year. The program is funded by a unique collaboration between the New York-based African-American Institute, the United Nations Education and Training Programme for Southern Africa, SAFTE, and Bay Area organizations and individuals.

Our two Namibian scholars come to us from Zimbabwe at a particularly critical time in that nation's history. There is little doubt that these two young women, with a new opportunity to pursue their interests in science and medicine, will play important roles in building the new and independent Namibia. Our South African scholars are graduates of SOMAFSCO, an ANC-administered school for refugees in Tanzania. Both men will pursue degrees in engineering and computer science, and are committed to returning to the Frontline States to work with refugees after completion of their degrees.

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SAFTE anticipates that the presence of these scholars will increase Bay Area interest and activity around South African issues. Contact Anne Poirier at 415/524-5900 for complete information on this exciting program, or to arrange for interviews with students or SAFTE organizers.
