

## **Father William Cunningham will address the 1995 NSF Design and Manufacturing Grantees Conference on Jan. 5**

**January 3, 1995**

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**EVENT:** Father William Cunningham, civil rights leader and director of Focus:Hope, will address the 1995 NSF Design and Manufacturing Grantees Conference at UC San Diego.

**DATE/TIME:** Thursday, January 5, 9 p.m.-10 p.m.

**LOCATION:** San Diego Marriott, La Jolla , 4240 La Jolla Village Drive

**BACKGROUND:** The Center for Advanced Technologies, operated by Focus:Hope--a grass-roots civil rights group in Detroit--is offering mostly minorities and women an opportunity to learn manufacturing engineering at a \$100-million "Star-trekkian" facility using state-of-the-art machinery. The Center, opened in November 1993, offers a six-year curriculum of hands-on technical training and interdisciplinary engineering degrees through the master's level with a consortium of six universities.

Focus: Hope has been drawing national attention, and the help of some of Detroit's biggest names, including former GM president Lloyd Reuss, who is dean of the high-tech training center. Industry and government experts say the program could become a model of how to educate young people for manufacturing careers, which increasingly require a high level of math, computer and technical skills.

The NSF Design and Manufacturing Grantees Conference is a three-day conference beginning January 4 at UC San Diego. The goal of the conference is to help accelerate technology transfer to other academic fields and industry through cooperation among participants. The conference also is expected to offer long-range planning assistance to several divisions within the National Science Foundation.

**LOGISTICS:** Media are invited to attend Father Cunningham's talk. Interviews may be set up in advance.

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