

**Brandon Bennett**

**In April of 2009, the latest data provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics stated the following: The unemployment rate for African-American males over 20 years of age was 17.2 % and for African-American females the rate was 11.5% and 40% for Latino men.**

**The constant rise in African-American and Latino unemployment can be attributed to many social, economic, and educational factors: discrimination in the labor market, nepotism, educationally disadvantage students, high school dropouts, high rate of African-American imprisonment, and so forth- - the list is endless. To this end, allow me a moment to elaborate on a few of the factors previously stated in my essay.**

**It is widely known in and out of the education profession that there is a great disparity between affluent school districts and school districts that are financially challenged. In most cases, affluent school districts consistently out perform schools in financially strapped districts because they are able to hire better and more qualified educators. As a result, these educators along with politically active parents are able to garner the necessary resources such as new textbooks, computers, science laboratories that ultimately allows their children to experience academic success seldom seen in less fortunate school districts.**

**In many instances, students from underprivileged schools districts are simply unable to compete for skilled jobs and seats in higher institutions of learning. Simply stated, the lack of academic preparedness is one of the central causes of the high unemployment rate among African-Americans and Latinos. Unfortunately for African-Americans, there are several other factors that many people do not want to discuss with respect to the high rate of unemployment within their communities: (i.e., racism, nepotism, and prejudices). Therefore, I would like to share a story with you regarding the evening news broadcasted on the three major television networks.**

**Ever since I was a child my family has encouraged me to watch the evening news in order to stay up to date with issues regarding current affairs. During this time period, I have never seen a news anchor of African-American ancestry. This topic began to intrigue me so, I asked a family member about African American news anchors. My uncle provided with the name Max Robinson.**

**In fact, on March 2, 1981, Max Robinson became the first African American to anchor the evening news for a major television network (ABC). Mr. Robinson took a great professional risk by encouraging those in the media to create a meaningful dialogue about racism in America. Mr. Robinson anchored the news for ABC for year and a half and there has not been an African American anchor on the evening news since his departure.**

**There is no doubt in my mind that racism, prejudice, and nepotism play a pivotal role with respect Africans-American not being hired in the field of journalism as well as other professions. How can the major networks go almost**

**30 years without having an African-American anchor the evening news? Thus, there are several questions and statistics that I would like to leave the reader of this essay with before I move on to other salient issues concerning this assignment and they are as follows:**

**In 2008, out of a 119 division I college football coaches, why were there only 4 African-American coaches? Currently, out of 314 division I college basketball coaches, there are only 54 African-American coaches. Why? Finally, why are there only 2 African-American governors in this country (i.e., David Paterson of New York and Deval Patrick of Massachusetts)? N.B. Governor Paterson assumed his position by default. In other words, Governor Spitzer resignation due to a sex scandal made it possible for then Lieutenant Governor David Paterson to become Governor.**

**Economically speaking, during the early part of the twentieth century African Americans owned many businesses in this country (e.g., the Negro Baseball League, banks, farms, stores, shops, and much more). These businesses allowed for financial independence that was crucial for the economic survival for African-Americans as contributing part of this society. As you may know, the financial independence of any group of people is also important to their self-esteem, which untimely defines their self-worth. Consequently, African-Americans and Latinos need more opportunities to become proprietors rather than consumers.**

**I think the most effective approach to empower underserved communities within New York City would be to invest in community developmental programs and small African-American and Latino businesses. In many cases, these businesses and community programs literally sustain neighborhoods that are often neglected by big businesses.**

**I would also spend more money on higher education for those African-American and Latino students who have proven to be academically successful despite being in school districts that academically challenged. Students who have succeeded academically should not be limited by their financial situation with respect to paying for college. In reality, the United States should do everything to make certain that these students are afforded every opportunity to make meaningful contributions to themselves, their communities and to America.**

**Finally, I would invest in job training programs that would lead to meaningful job opportunities for African-Americans and Latinos. A highly skilled labor market is not only desirable domestically, but internationally as well.**

**Overseas companies would not hesitate to invest in a labor market of highly skilled professionals who are committed to providing high quality services.**

**To sum up then, clearly we can do much more to improve the Dismal rate of unemployment with regard to African- Americans and Latinos in this country.**

**However, until we are prepared to put our arms around this issue and embrace the economic hardship facing African- Americans and Latinos unemployment rates for People of African ancestry will continue to remain at historic levels.**

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