

Panther Party School Gets Commendation

OAKLAND, CA. — A special commendation given to the Oakland Community School for its outstanding contribution to the education of Black and poor youth by the California state legislature.

The OCS, widely praised by local and state officials and community leaders for its outstanding contribution to the education of Black and poor youth, was praised by the state legislature for obtaining . . . the highest level of scholastic achievement in elementary education and for having concretely defied the myth of the uneducable child. . .

The framed resolution was presented on the steps of the state capitol in

Sacramento to Huey P. Newton, founder and president of the Black Panther Party, who founded the East Oakland-based, model elementary level OCS in 1971: Elaine Brown, chairperson of the BPP and executive director of Educational Opportunities Corporation (EOC), the non-profit, tax-exempt, community-based organization that administers the OCS; and Ericka Huggins, director of the School and a leading BPP member.

Also on hand to witness the historic August 18 presentation were 12 children who attend the School.

It was a particularly proud and happy occasion

for Huey. As the result of the racist and inadequate education he received as a student in the Oakland public schools, Huey concluded several years ago that alternative schools must be established so that Black, minority and poor children can obtain an education not only reflective of their culture but one that provides them with the necessary skills of reading, writing and mathematics.

In January, 1971, Huey's dream became a reality as concerned parents and community people joined with the BPP in starting the OCS, at that time called the Huey P. Newton Inter-communal Youth Institute.