Loretta Wright

GRANTING WISHES

How would you feel if you could make people’s dreams come true? And how would you feel if you knew you could make a major difference in this world? Loretta Wright does that every day. She is a project officer for the Annenberg/CPB-Math and Science Project which distributes over six million dollars a year in grants. The project’s goals are to improve math and science education throughout the country. As project officer, Loretta determines whether various grants will be funded.

“There are many factors we consider in making a decision on who should receive a grant. First, it must be established that the project under review fits our mission and has the potential to reach a large number of people,” explains Loretta. “The project must have a reasonable budget, goals and activities that we feel are appropriate and achievable and, of course, experienced personnel.”

One exciting example of an Annenberg/CPB-funded project that Loretta is very proud of is the Tennessee Valley Project. “This is a rural telecommunication project in which teachers and students used the Internet and Web resources along with resources in their communities as tools to learn more about science. For example, students who were learning about water resources went into their community and tested water samples. They then posted their results on the Web and contacted students and scientists all around the country to discuss those results, compare them to the water quality in other communities, and find solutions if water quality was a problem.”

“Being a project officer for Annenberg is a tremendous privilege for me. As a youth I never dreamed I would one day work in the corporate world.” Loretta graduated from Risley High School in Brunswick, Georgia and went to Fort Valley State College in Georgia. She later received a master’s degree in biology from Atlanta University. “I was a science educator in several public school systems for 32 1/2 years,” she explains, “and as a teacher and administrator had some experience and success in getting grants from various foundations and agencies for enrichment programs in our school. After all those years spent asking for money, it’s nice now to be sitting on the other side of the table.”