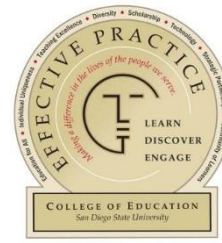


May 9, 2016



Dear President,

The Minority Male Community College Consortium and PolicyLink serve on the R.I.S.E. (Research Integration Strategy and Evaluation) for boys and men of color advisory board. As part of our leadership role, we are producing an issue brief titled: *Improving Community College Success for Young Men of Color -- A Policy and Systems Change Agenda for California*.

As a trusted partner, we are asking that you take **10 minutes** to complete the survey to inform our thinking and guide the subsequent development of this brief.

Follow this link to the Survey:

[Take the Survey](https://sdsueducation.qualtrics.com/SE?Q_DL=bPc5vSPpsqel97D_exrTt2JrBGRIWFL_MLRP_5hhQPawtiP2kxEx&Q_CHL=email)

Or copy and paste the URL below into your internet browser:

https://sdsueducation.qualtrics.com/SE?Q_DL=bPc5vSPpsqel97D_exrTt2JrBGRIWFL_MLRP_5hhQPawtiP2kxEx&Q_CHL=email

With momentum to support boys and men of color growing due to efforts such as My Brother's Keeper, of which there are 26 communities in California, and the leadership of the California Assembly Select Committee on the Status of Boys and Men of Color, and the Alliance for Boys and Men of Color, this is a strategic moment for us to find synergy, leverage our knowledge of what's needed to ensure success, and develop a shared policy agenda.

We hope we can count on you to complete this brief survey. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our project team if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Marc Philpart, PolicyLink – marc@policylink.org

Jordan Thierry, PolicyLink – jthierry@policylink.org

Frank Harris III, Minority Male Community College Collaborative (M2C3) -
frank.harris@sdsu.edu

J. Luke Wood, Minority Male Community College Collaborative (M2C3) - luke.wood@sdsu.edu

**Improving Community College Success for Young Men of Color
A Policy and Systems Change Agenda for California
Survey, May 2016**

1. Based on your expertise, what are one or two barriers (e.g., institutional, policy, individual) that can inhibit the success of community college men of color?

Current practice requires individual students to take the initiative to seek out support services. Men of Color in particular are reluctant to do so. Current college admission and financial aid processes are overly complex and dependent on extensive documentation. Such barriers disproportionately inhibit men of color from entering college.

2. Based on your expertise, what are three California state policies (e.g., new or revisions) that could benefit the success of men of color in community colleges?

California's two recent initiatives are very helpful to men of color: the Student Success Initiative and particularly the Student Equity Initiative. The reduction of restrictions on dual enrollment of high school students in community colleges has the potential to greatly benefit men of color who are currently in high school but reluctant to attempt college.

3. Based on your expertise, what are three California community college system policies (e.g., new or revisions) that could benefit the success of men of color?

The Strong Workforce Initiative, which is just getting started, will enable more community college students to be trained for high skill, high wage, high demand occupations. As unemployment in young men of color is particularly high, this would be of great benefit to that group. The Basic Skills Innovation Initiative is promoting more effective delivery of developmental education. As men of color are disproportionately in need of basic skills, this effort has potential to improve success of this group. The use of mobile devices to access college information is being supported by the state and would potentially benefit young men of color as this group heavily depends on mobile devices for information.

4. Based on your expertise, what are three college or district policies (e.g., new or revisions) that could benefit the success of men of color in community colleges?

Our own college is expanding peer counseling and peer mentoring of and by men of color. We are expanding efforts to attract more men and women of color as applicants for our faculty positions. We are in the initial discussion stages of emphasizing social justice and ethnic and gender equity in our curriculum and academic program structure--particularly the concepts of cultural competence and multicultural communication.

5. Based on your expertise, what are three college or district practices that are most critical for improving the success of community college men of color?

The greatest barriers our men of color face are lack of college readiness, barriers to integration with the college culture, and low rates of participation in college academic support such as tutoring. While our college has general efforts to make improvements in these areas, we recognize that in some cases men of color face unique challenges in overcoming these factors. Consequently, we are exploring, piloting, and implementing targeted interventions for men of color in those three areas. We have much to learn.

6. Based on your expertise, what are some strategies that are currently working to improve the success of community college men of color?

Peer counseling and tutoring shows promise. Our targeted group support system, called Aspire, has shown progress. Acceleration of developmental education course sequences is particularly beneficial to men of color.

7. Is there anything else you would like to offer that we have not asked?

It still remains difficult to root out and eliminate racial bias. The issue is more a matter of complacency than blatant racism. Campus climate is thus very important. The role of parents or significant others in the lives of men of color plays an important role, particularly when those significant others are also men of color. The college could do more in supporting those relationships with those in the lives of men of color outside of college.

Completed by Bill Scroggins
May 9, 2016