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Where are the African American Males In the Social Work Program

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Background Overview

The African American community has sustained various systematic disparities and inequalities in the U.S. (Howard, 2017). Historically, due to discriminatory enrollment practices, African Americans were not able to gain access to social work institutions or training programs (Howard, 2017). Morris-Compton (2007) identified a concern about the lack of male African American social work practitioners. The scarcity of AA males in social work programs limits and reduces the number of AA male social work practitioners within a community. Upon graduating with a degree in social work, those who become practitioners will work with vulnerable, diverse, and underserved minority populations.

In the U.S., African Americans represent 15% of the overall population, are part of an underserved, oppressed, vulnerable and marginalized group. However, there is an over representation and disproportionate number of African American children in the foster care system (33%) whose cases are managed by social workers (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2016; NCLS, 2017). There is a need for increased African American male social work practitioners to address the specific needs of the African American community.

Project Goals

• To gain a better understanding of the number of African American male social work students enrolled at a CSU?
• To understand is the system working or failing?
• To determine if there is a lack of African American males in the social work department at CSUSB?

Identified Gap

African Americans represent 13.84% of the population in San Bernardino county. Yet, the low number of enrolled African American students at California State University of San Bernardino (CSUSB) is not reflective of the surrounding community. There is a lack of African American male students represented at CSU Institutions and even less in the school of social work at CSUSB.

The Numbers Don’t Lie

In Fall of 2019, there were a total of 347 African American Males enrolled at CSUSB and of those, nine were in the Social Work Program (6MSW, 3BSW). In Fall of 2019, over 70,000 AA males were admitted into a CSU as a first-time freshman however, less than 2% enrolled. In Fall of 2018 of the 66,134 AA male students admitted into a CSU only 1.6% enrolled.

Statistics were gathered from CSU Center Institutional Research & Analysis and CSUSB Office of Institutional Research.

Missed Recruitment Opportunities

There are 10 high schools in the San Bernardino Unified School District and 58 high schools in San Bernardino County. In 2019, 4.2% of African American males enrolled at CSUSB and only 2.5% were enrolled in the Social Work Program. There have been limited and unsuccessful recruitment efforts taken to attract and or recruit African American males at CSUSB School of Social Work.

Future Implications

• There is a need for increased enrolled of African American male social work students at CSUSB.
• AA student enrollment in higher education needs to be reflective of its community (13%).
• Understand correlation between low enrollment of AA males versus those admitted into a CSU
• Increased recruitment efforts needed to be employed by the School of Social Work to recruit and attract African American Males
  • Attend local community high school fairs to discuss social work program with students

References

1. CSU Data Center Institutional Research & Analysis. Retrieved from: https://www2.calstate.edu/data-center/institutional-research-analysis