

Increasing education for all

KSU is the new home to the University System of Georgia's efforts to improve the education of young African-American men.

A University System of Georgia (USG) initiative aimed at increasing the number of African-American males enrolled in the state's colleges and universities has a new home at Kennesaw State University.

The African-American Male Initiative (AAMI), formerly based at the Atlanta offices of the Board of Regents, has followed the project's two top administrators to Kennesaw State.

Daniel S. Papp, president of Kennesaw State, and Arlethia Perry-Johnson, KSU special assistant to the president for external affairs and AAMI's project director, have overseen the project since its inception.

"With the University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative now calling Kennesaw State University its home, KSU looks forward to taking a national leadership role in helping to redress the issue of too few African-American males pursuing higher education," Papp said.

Perry-Johnson said the AAMI is a good fit at KSU because it reflects one of the administration's key goals.

"Dr. Papp has articulated a strong commitment to diversity as an integral element of the university's mission, and the goals of AAMI are symbiotic with the university's diversity goals," she said.

Since the AAMI was launched six years ago, the enrollment of black males in the University System has increased by almost 24.5 percent, from 17,068 students in fall 2002 to 21,249 in fall 2007.

"The goal of the program is to increase the recruitment, retention and graduation of young black men within the USG through strategic intervention at both the K-12 and higher education levels,"

Perry-Johnson said. "Many devoted persons have worked diligently under AAMI's auspices to enhance educational outcomes for these young men.

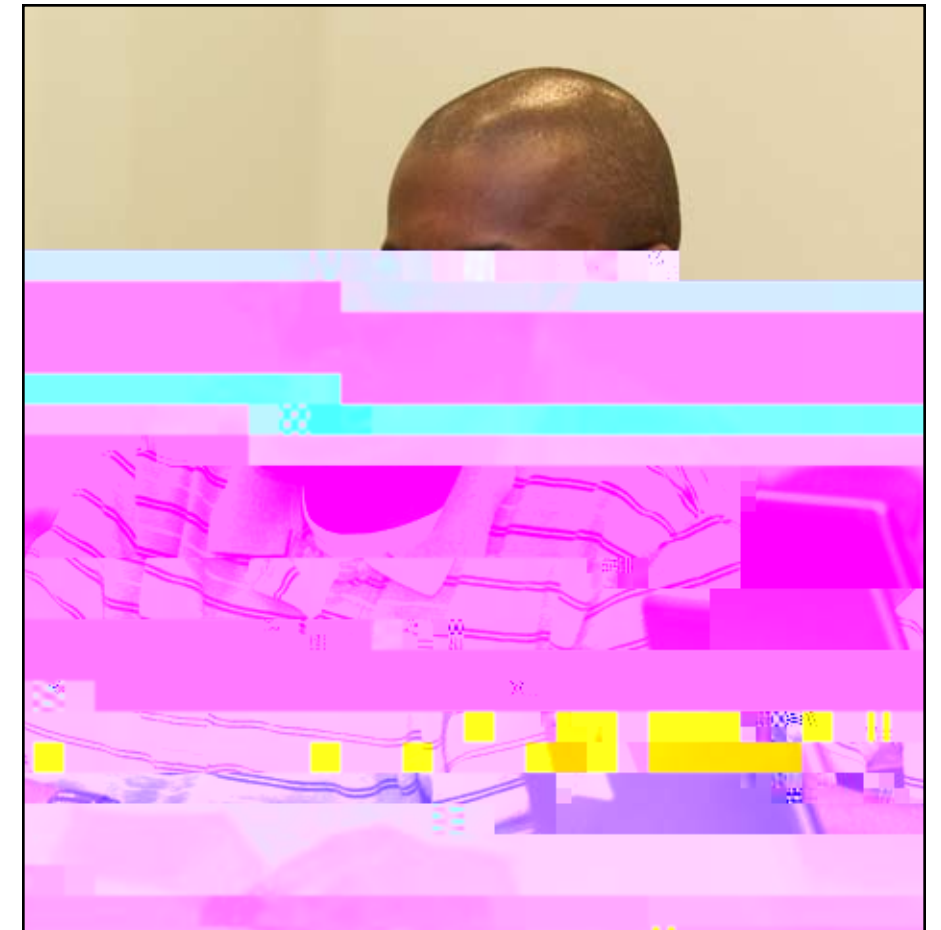
Marking its six-year milestone, the University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative (AAMI) was launched in the summer of 2002 as a research and marketing project aimed at identifying the barriers to college attendance by African-American males within the University System of Georgia (USG). With the assistance



The University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative Outcomes

Enrollment

The University System of Georgia has made tremendous strides with black male enrollment over the last few years. Between fall 2002 and fall 2007, their enrollment increased by 24.5 percent, from 17,068 in 2002 to 21,249 in 2007 — an addition of 4,181 black male students. Among the full-time freshmen population, African-American male enrollment increased 44 percent during this same period, from 2,811 to 4,058. This outpaced both white female and white male enrollment increases. White male enrollment increased 6 percent, from 10,864 in 2002 to 11,569 in 2007, while white female enrollment increased 7 percent, from 12,547 in 2002 to 13,444 in 2007.



The University System of Georgia launched the African-American Male Initiative after USG officials uncovered stark data in 2001 that revealed the disproportionate number of black women versus black men enrolled in the USG – 35,000 black females compared to 17,000 black males – a more than 2:1 ratio. AAMI efforts aimed at enhancing the college matriculation and graduation of black men, and of helping to expand the pipeline of young black males qualified for college admission, have achieved successful performance outcomes.



Degrees Conferred

The University System of Georgia must increase the number of degrees conferred to African-American males. That performance indicator also is showing progress. The number of degrees conferred to African-American males at USG institutions increased from 1,294 in 2003 to 1,513 in 2007 — an increase of 17 percent. Among African-American females, the increase was 19 percent — moving from 2,853 to 3,409.

The Challenge

When the data is disaggregated — be it retention, persistence or completion — African-American males always rank at the bottom of both ethnic and gender outcomes in terms of these critical performance indicators. AAMI's goal is to significantly increase the graduation rates of African-American males within the USG, which will contribute to both the state's and the nation's educational attainment levels. The good news is that the USG's recruitment, retention and graduation rates are improving.

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALE INITIATIVE PROGRAMS

| USG Institutions | Programs | Academic Levels Served | Program Contacts |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>Albany State University</p> | <p>Center for the African-American Male The Center for the African-American Male provides a variety of educational, enrichment and motivational activities for the development of African-American men. CAAM prepares young men for the future by providing them with mentors to help them develop useful skills in a relaxed group setting. CAAM provides programs that address the needs of students in the areas of education, mentoring and raising self-esteem, preparation for employment, conflict resolutions, tutoring and community service.</p> <p>The Holley Institute The Holley Institute provides pre-college and freshman students needed enrichment to increase their chances of being admitted to Albany State University. The Holley Institute works to increase the SAT scores of participants in order to meet minimum requirements (400 math and 430 verbal) for admittance to Albany State University by providing computer-based and curriculum-based training and instruction.</p> | <p>Elementary School: Grade 2 Middle School: Grades 6-8 High School: Grades 9-12</p> <p>College Level: Incoming Freshmen</p> | <p>Mr. Frank Wilson Director Center for the African-American Male Albany State University 504 College Drive Albany, GA 31705-2717 Frank.wilson@asurams.edu (229) 430-1911</p> <p>Dr. Ontario Wooden Director The Holley Institute Albany State University 504 College Drive Albany, GA 31705-2717 Ontario.wooden@asurams.edu (229) 430-1632</p> |
| <p>Augusta State University</p> | <p>The Talented Tenth The Talented Tenth program was established to assist in diminishing the barriers that African-American male college students face during their years in higher education. The goal of the program is to increase graduation rates. The mission is accomplished by: advancing the professional and personal development of character; increasing a sense of camaraderie among its members; providing academic programming throughout grade levels K-12; and assisting students to overcome barriers by acquiring knowledge and building relationships with faculty outside of the classroom.</p> | <p>Elementary School: Grades K-5 Middle School: Grades 6-8 High School: Grades 9-12 College Level</p> | <p>Ms. Karen Mobley Director of Student Development Augusta State University 2500 Walton Way Augusta, GA 30904-2200 kmobley@aug.edu (706) 729-2351</p> |
| <p>Coastal Georgia Community College</p> | <p>Minority Outreach Program A concentrated dropout intervention program for 7th grade African-American males, offered over several weeks in June and July on the CGCC campus. Follow-up activities are conducted throughout the school year in a Saturday academy. Participants receive tutorial assistance, counseling and mentoring as needed.</p> <p>Torchbearers</p> | | |

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“Creating a More Educated Georgia”
www.usg.edu/aami

For more information, please contact: