



"I AM..." MALE ENRICHMENT PROPOSAL

2018

PROPOSED BY

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CREATOR OF THE
THE BROTHERS BRUNCH EXPERIENCE
&
DOPE DADS

"I AM BECAUSE YOU ARE; THEREFORE YOU ARE BECAUSE I AM..."

"I AM..." OVERVIEW

ABOUT US

Brotherhood is a sacred entity that bonds and unites men in a unique way – it transcends distance, time, and status, paying no attention to differences and barriers. Established in 2015 the Brothers Brunch focuses on three ingredients: Cuisine, Culture and Connections. The Brunch exposes men to new dining experiences that complement the wealth of conversation. It introduces a cultural emergence and fosters professional and personal connections that result in new bonds being built and developed.

The "I Am" Movement was birthed in 2017 and sheds light on the vast array of men enrolled in institutions who, despite their initial differences are bonded in their college experience and quest to become better men.



RETENTION & PERSISTENCE

Institutional Retention is defined as the percentage of students who complete a program or maintain enrollment at their first institution. Persistence however is the percentage of students who complete a program or maintain their enrollment at any post- secondary institution.

Evidence shows that students who drop enrollment after one term are less likely to re-enroll. Programs such as New Student Orientation and First Year Experience should help with this but these structures, systems and or formats alone are simply not enough.

Dr. Walter Kimbrough, President of Dillard University did some fascinating research on African American Men in Higher Education. Based on this research, men absolutely need the non-cognitive variables which include: Attachment to the Institution, Levels of Social Adjustment, and Supportive relationships with mentors which play significant roles in predicting student satisfaction and success. The Brothers Brunch creates this space.

SCOPE

LEARNING OUTCOMES

To provide a context for the Brothers Brunch experience, undergraduate males will explore theoretical student development issues. The objectives of the experience are meant to facilitate learning for students and are influenced by the seven vectors of Chickering's Theory of Identity Development. Students will:

1. Engage in productive and collaborative conversations where differing viewpoints are respected and celebrated
2. Learn strategies and skills for expressing their emotions in a safe and supportive environment
3. Understand the importance of developing personal opinions and appreciating those that differ from theirs
4. Cultivate productive, supportive and long-term relationships
5. Appreciate the unique identities and viewpoints of others
6. Discover/deepen their own identity and be able to articulate their own thoughts and feelings
7. Develop an understanding of and appreciation for healthy discussions centered around topics of interest

COMPLETION

Shaun Harper through the Center for the Study of Race & Equity in Education reports that Black men's dismal college enrollments, disengagement and underachievement, and low rates of baccalaureate degree completion are among the most pressing and complex issues in American Education. The emphasis is often on failure and low performance as opposed to achievement.

College readiness is important in explaining low completion rates but the education system is colorblind in theory. For many minorities who finish high school unprepared for college, a systematic barrier to college exist. Out of 70% of high school graduates in the United States who enroll in college, 57% graduate within six years and low-income and minority students have a completion rate of closer to 45%.

Harper stresses that higher levels of responsibility be placed on institutions for encouraging active engagement rather than deficit-oriented perspectives that rely on self-directed student engagement. The Brunch creates this space.

THE EXPERIENCE

THE EXPERIENCE

The Brothers Brunch is an Experience. From beginning to end there is a keen sense of attention to detail which drives everything we do. As men, at a very early age we are taught about money, women and sports but rarely about properly managing emotions, identity development and self-esteem.

The hidden curriculum isn't about the transactions we make, its the transformational and meaningful moments we experience. The Brunch is a rare opportunity to holistically develop men into competent, emotionally intelligent, interdependent, mature, confident and purposeful men with a value for integrity.

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