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Borough of Manhattan Community College

Activities and Programs That Target Black Males

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BMCC OVERVIEW

Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) is the largest community college in the 24-college system that makes up The City University of New York (CUNY). BMCC has over 45 associate degree programs, with more than 26,000 degree-seeking students enrolled at the college. The vast majority (88 percent) of BMCC's student population is made up of ethnic minorities and groups historically underrepresented in collegiate programs. Over 90% of our students are New York City residents who commute to campus from each of the five boroughs of New York City, and they reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of the city itself. BMCC's location in downtown Manhattan represents the best of New York City: the culture of Tribeca, the vibrancy of Wall Street, and the promise of the Statue of Liberty. BMCC is also an international college, with students from over 155 countries, including the Caribbean, Africa, Mexico, and Central and South America. BMCC enrolls more international students than any other community college in the Northeast.

- BMCC's institutional demographics means that most of our programs serve people of color and men of color. Approximately 3,300 male students identify as "Black, Non-Hispanic" over the past few semesters.
- BMCC is focused on advancing equity and inclusion, and improving the proportional representation of Black and Hispanic students. For black males at BMCC, the fall-to-fall one-year retention rates for new freshmen cohorts was 56.6% in Fall 2015; and the three-year graduation rates for new freshmen cohorts was 13.8% in Fall 2013. For white male students, the rates for these same categories were 59.8% and 13.6%, respectively. For Asian males, the rates in these same categories were 67.0% and 16.4%, respectively.
- While programs, services and resources such as BOLT, PLUS, Peer Mentoring, Clubs, Single Stop, Tutoring and Athletics are open to all students, many men of color either receive support or develop leadership skills and are retained through these programs.
- BMCC also has a fairly large population of student veteran men of color who get counseling, mentoring, tutoring and other services aimed at successful transitioning and retention. About 430 veterans of all races were registered in spring 2017.

UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The Urban Male Leadership Academy (UMLA) is BMCC's main program to support black male students. UMLA seeks to uplift the BMCC community by providing opportunities and support services to underrepresented students in higher education. UMLA's primary goal is to increase retention, graduation, and transfer rates of underserved student populations, particularly black

and Latino males. UMLA is shaping the leaders of tomorrow through various methods such as peer mentoring through the Each One Reach One Program (EORO), individual and group Staff/Faculty mentoring, professional development, social and cultural enrichment activities, and bridge programs to senior colleges (Baruch, NYU, and more) as well as access to professional pipeline programs.

The UMLA Study Abroad Scholarship promotes study abroad opportunities to underrepresented students. CUNY Black Male Initiative (CUNY-BMI) and Birthright AFRICA co-sponsored a trip to Ghana in August 2017; five BMCC students were among the participants.

UMLA collaborates with the BMCC Study Abroad office to implement the UMLA Study Abroad Scholarship. UMLA supplies funds to encourage underrepresented students to apply for and pursue study abroad opportunities throughout CUNY. Three UMLA students went to Brazil and one student traveled to Peru this past summer with all their expenses covered through our college-sponsored study abroad program.

Other UMLA Partnerships

The Each One Reach One Program (EORO) is a partnership among UMLA, Student Affairs, and the Student Government Association (SGA) at BMCC. Student Affairs (Counseling) identifies struggling students in need of mentoring, while the SGA works to enhance program awareness in the student body and provides the program with supplemental funding. EORO supports the retention and graduation rates of underrepresented students, particularly men of color. In the fall 2016 semester, UMLA provided ongoing structured mentorship to 140 male students, 79 of whom were African American.

Peer mentors also provide academic support. EORO peer mentors, many of whom belong to the BMCC Black Honor Society of Student Scholars Club, are required to have GPAs of 3.4 and higher. During the current reporting period, 50 honor students mentored an equal number of students with GPAs ranging between 1.0 and 2.5.

Baruch College: UMLA collaborates with the SEEK staff at Baruch College to provide students vital information regarding transfer opportunities. The Baruch SEEK office also provides one-on-one academic and transfer advisement to UMLA students interested in transferring to Baruch.

TDF: UMLA collaborates with the NYC Theater Development Fund (TDF) to implement the Color Culture Theater Program. TDF provides teaching artists for on-campus workshops.

Access Corps Project: UMLA collaborates with the Manhattan Early College School for Advertising (MECA), College Now, and NYC Big Brothers Big Sisters to administer the UMLA Access Corps project. UMLA students work within these organizations to mentor high school students.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES & FEES SPONSORED CLUBS

CLUB – Urban Mentors and Leadership Association is dedicated to providing opportunities for students to excel in their leadership and academic development. To strengthen and master the abilities and capabilities of students in the service fields – aiding, helping and supporting their community. Participants also support the academic progress, retention and timely graduation of underrepresented students at the college through mentorship and leadership.

CLUB – Honor Society of Black Student Scholars exists to advance the academic and social development of its members. Club members support each other and strive for academic success.

COLLEGE-SPONSORED LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The Student Government Association (SGA) is the voice of every student at BMCC and is devoted to advocating for those issues that will enhance the educational, social and career development of BMCC students. A high percentage of black males participate in SGA, which is committed to being a source of information, guidance and service to students. SGA is open and receptive to the individual, ethnic and cultural interests of BMCC students.

Building Outstanding Leaders of Tomorrow (B.O.L.T.) is a one-semester program designed primarily for first-semester students. Through a series of weekly workshops and activities, students are expected to learn the basic skills required to become an effective leader and discover opportunities to participate in student life and fill student leadership roles.

Student Partners Lending Universal Support (P.L.U.S.) is a program based on service for the local and college community. Student Partners volunteer on and off campus at various events/activities, and assist offices and fellow students. Participants in the program can choose the Service Track, the Leadership Training Track, or become a P.L.U.S. Campus Partner.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

POISE and GUIDE are scholarships geared toward underrepresented populations, specifically African American, Hispanic, and Native American. **POISE and GUIDE** are scholarships geared toward underrepresented populations, specifically African American, Hispanic, and Native American. Participants are supported and mentored by BMCC and New York University (NYU) faculty, staff, and students, in addition to the ongoing support provided by BMCC. Selected students will participate in a variety of NYU activities aimed at helping them continue to succeed academically and to transfer to four-year colleges. Some of these activities include workshops related to applying, gaining admission, and transitioning to a four-year college, course-based tutoring, access to the NYU Bobst Library, and participation in NYU's Academic Achievement Program (AAP) and other NYU-wide activities.

POISE: The Pipeline Opportunities for Inter-Collegiate Stem Education Program (POISE) is a collaboration between BMCC and NYU's College of Arts and Science (CAS) to create a pipeline for sophomore-standing BMCC students from underrepresented minority groups pursuing STEM (science, computer science, engineering, psychology, and math) disciplines. Our fifth cohort has 51 participating students, including 15 black males. So far, 19 BMCC students have received scholarships to "top out" their financial need, including housing assistance.

GUIDE: The Gallatin Undergraduate Initiative for Discovery in Education (GUIDE) program is a partnership between NYU's Gallatin School of Individualized Study and BMCC. It prepares high-achieving BMCC students from underrepresented groups to succeed as full-scholarship juniors and seniors in NYU Gallatin's rigorous liberal arts bachelor's degree program. GUIDE is tailored to students interested in studying social justice: social movements, law and governance, urban democracy, economics, identity formation, political literature and art, arts activism, and environmental studies. NYU will admit up to 5 GUIDE Scholars, covering tuition, fees, books and on-campus housing if needed. (The first cohort has nine students.)

MISCELLANEOUS

- In spring 2017, UMLA created the *Orientation to Success: A Guide to Personal and Academic Achievement* for BMCC Students. The guidebook contains five training modules designed to help new students navigate the college experience, and is filled with resources, tips and tools, as well as strategies for academic and personal success. Every new and existing UMLA student will receive a copy of the guidebook.
- At the end of each academic year, UMLA recognizes student leaders from UMLA, the Each One Reach One program, and the BMCC Student Government Association. Local and national politicians are often invited to this event. This past year, UMLA celebrated its 11th Annual Academic Awards ceremony and recognized 160 students during the ceremony.
- Summer UMLA events include a series of academic skills workshops for Summer Immersion students, a quilt-making workshop, and several training sessions for UMLA Mentors and Ambassadors.
- The CUNY BMI central staff conducted a site visit at the Borough of Manhattan Community College on February 22, 2017, to view the UMLA staff and program *in action*. In each of six key categories, including Academic Enhancements, Socioemotional Programming, and Culturally Competent Peer-to-Peer Mentorship, BMCC got a rating of "*Excellent.*"