Supporting the College Success Needs of Black Students: Findings from Florida Student Surveys

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Welcome!

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Today’s Presenters

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The Hope Center for College,
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Vanessa Coca, Ph.D.
Director of Research,
The Hope Center for College,
Community, and Justice
Questions & Conversation

- Submit your questions in the box
- Share on social media
  
  Twitter: @FLCollegeAccess
  #FCAN
  #TalentStrongFL

This webinar is being recorded; all materials will be available within a week of recording.
Our mission:
We lead the collaborative movement to ensure every Floridian achieves an education beyond high school and a rewarding career.

Our vision:
A Florida working together, where education is the pathway to economic mobility for all.
FCAN’s Work

Research and Data FCAN publishes research and data on evidence-based practices and policy opportunities to strengthen Florida's talent pool.

Local college access networks (LCANs) LCANs support 82% of the state’s population. These organizations are made up of community leaders who come together to create solutions and partnerships to support local talent development.

Statewide Initiatives FCAN coordinates 4 College Ready Florida initiatives that provides schools and community organizations resources to help students continue their education after high school.
Seven Conditions That Make Florida Talent Strong

- Opportunity for Everyone
- Clear Information and Guidance
- Affordability
- Multiple Pathways
- Lifelong Learning
- Data-informed Decision-making
- Community Collaboration
Introduction
Florida Continues to Make Progress Toward the SAIL to 60 Goal

**UNITED STATES**

51.9% ↑ 6.1% since 2015

- 2015: 40.9%
- 2016: 41.7%
- 2017: 42.4%
- 2018: 43.2%
- 2019: 43.8%

**FLORIDA**

52.8% ↑ 5.9% since 2015

- 2015: 39.9%
- 2016: 39.9%
- 2017: 41.3%
- 2018: 41.6%
- 2019: 42.2%

*An estimated 10.5% of Florida residents and 8.1% of U.S. residents hold a workforce-relevant short-term credential, according to Lumina Foundation. Short-term credential data are not yet available at the county level.*
While 42.2% of all Floridians have a 2-year degree or higher, differences in attainment exist by race and ethnicity...

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey
Most Floridians of Working Age Will Be Non-White by 2030

Working-Age Adults: 2019
- White: 52%
- Black: 17%
- Hispanic: 27%
- Other: 4%

Working-Age Adults: 2030
- White: 46%
- Black: 18%
- Hispanic: 33%
- Other: 4%

Source: University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business Research
Opening Remarks

Paul Perrault, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President,
Community Impact and Learning
Helios Education Foundation

@HeliosEdFnd
SUPPORTING THE COLLEGE SUCCESS NEEDS OF BLACK STUDENTS: FINDINGS FROM FLORIDA STUDENT SURVEYS

Dr. Paul G. Perrault, Senior Vice President, Community Impact and Learning Helios Education Foundation
We Believe:

• Education Changes Lives and Strengthens Communities.
• Education Is an Investment, Not an Expense.
• Every Student, Regardless of Zip Code, Deserves a High-Quality Education.
• We Will Achieve Our Mission through Partnership and Collaboration.
Why did we do this research?

WE BELIEVE

COMMUNITY • EQUITY • INVESTMENT • PARTNERSHIP
Today’s Presentation
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Barriers to College Enrollment:
An In-depth Look at the Expectations and Challenges of Black, Two-Year College Applicants in Florida

Kallie Clark, Vanessa Coca, & Sara Goldrick-Rab
About Hope

- Experts in basic needs & affordability
  - Interdisciplinary team of 50
  - 100% grant/contract funded

- Part of Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Temple University, Philadelphia

- We support students & colleges with:
  - Applied research & evaluation
  - Technical assistance and professional development
  - Policy advising
  - Strategic communications
Declining community college enrollment rates disproportionately impact Black Floridians.

This has only been exacerbated by the pandemic.

Completion rates 10-15 percentage points below Latinx and White peers

Enrollment dropped by 11% for Black students in 2020
Basic Needs Insecurity in Florida Colleges Disproportionately Impacts Black Students

Source: 2019 #RealCollege Survey, 18–20-year-olds
Project Goals

1. Understand the expectations, challenges, and obligations Black students face on the road to college enrollment.

2. Identify points of intervention to better support Black students in the transition to college.
College Transitions Survey

- First time applicants to Miami Dade College or Hillsborough Community College (18 years old+)
- Number of survey invitations sent: 13,843; 1,188 responded

FINAL SAMPLE: 257 students who identified as Black, 711 Latinx students, and 515 White students.
Characteristics of Black College Applicants

• Ethnically diverse:
  • 83% African American
  • 31% Black Hispanic
  • 17% Caribbean
  • 10% African
Characteristics of Black College Applicants

- 82% below age of 20
- 68% are first generation students
- 80% recent high school grads

Compared to Latinx: 85%
White: 65%
Characteristics of Black College Applicants

- 82% below age of 20
- 68% are first generation students
- 80% recent high school grads

Among Black students:
Black Hispanic: 89%
African American: 80%
Caribbean: 76%
African: 50%
Advice Before College

Talked about college options
74% Black applicants

Talked about filing a FAFSA
75% Black applicants

Talked about basic needs in college
41% Black applicants
Advice Before College

Talked about college options

- 89% African American applicants
- 84% Black Hispanic applicants
- 73% Caribbean applicants

Talked about filing a FAFSA

- 74% African American applicants
- 80% Black Hispanic applicants
- 79% Caribbean applicants

Talked about basic needs in college

- 41% African American applicants
- 53% Black Hispanic applicants
- 48% Caribbean applicants
Financial Challenges of Black College Applicants

- 59% receive a federal benefit such as SNAP, Medicaid, or free and reduced-price lunch

- 30% meet criteria to file independent on the FAFSA

- 16% have childcare responsibilities

- 7% have family-care responsibilities

Compared to 15% for White students
Fall Enrollment Plans

Percentage (%) of applicants

- Full-time: 66%
- Part-time: 22%
- I'm not sure: 12%

Among Black applicants:
- Black Hispanic: 59%
- African American: 64%
- African: 65%
- Caribbean: 81%
Students’ Feelings About Attending College

- Excited: 58%
- Stressed: 53%
- Nervous: 49%
- Confident: 44%
- Scared: 30%
- Pressured: 26%
- Relaxed: 22%
Challenges and opportunities for supporting Black student success
Black Students’ Feelings About Affording College

- Worried or stressed about taking out student loans: 65%
- Worried or stressed about paying for college: 62%
- Doubtful about affording college: 28%

Compared to:
- Latinx: 23%
- White: 13%
### Black Applicants Expectations for Paying for College

#### Financial Support Expectations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Expectation</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>In-state tuition</td>
<td>81</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I'm not sure</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Support</td>
<td>Future job</td>
<td>62</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family and friends</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pell Grant</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Black Hispanic applicants:** 18%
- **Latinx:** 40%
- **White:** 36%
One-fifth of Black Students Who Expect Financial Aid have not yet filed a FAFSA
Black Students’ Expectations for Providing Financial Support to Family During College

- I'm not sure: 25%
- No contribution: 13%
- Contribute some: 17%
- Half or more: 44%

Latinx: 10%
White: 20%
One Quarter of Black Applicants Currently Experiencing Basic Needs Insecurity (BNI)

Percentage (%)

0 10 20 30 40

Any BNI: 26%
- Latinx applicants: 10%
- White applicants: 15%
- African American applicants: 15%
- African applicants: 40%
- Black Hispanic applicants: 33%
- Caribbean applicants: 30%

Food insecurity: 25%

Housing Insecurity: 18%

Homelessness: 11%
Conclusions and Recommendations
The Bottom Line for Black Applicants

Most face financial challenges as they transition to college.

Many are unsure of how they will pay for college.

A good portion who expect state or federal aid still had not filed a FAFSA by the summer before fall term.

About 1 in 4 students have dependent care obligations.
Recommendations: Before College

- FAFSA completion support
- Postsecondary coaches
- Emergency aid during the transition to college
Recommendations: During College

• Supports to students with family obligations
• Connect to public benefits programs
• Use Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds for emergency aid
• Greater mental health support
Learn More:

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**Strengthening Campus Connections: How Living Learning Communities Increase Student Success**

October 20, 1-2PM EST

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