Preparing Historically Underrepresented Students to Access and Thrive on a Diverse Campus

Nick Collins
Kim Lijana
Helki Jackson
Rachel Boswell
Michael Turner

Center for Educational Outreach
University of Michigan

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MISSION

The CEO seeks to encourage academic excellence for all K-12 schoolchildren in the state of Michigan. We focus on continuing U-M’s commitment to educational outreach and to promoting collaboration between schools, organizations, and the community.
Center for Educational Outreach

Guiding Principals

• Academic excellence
• Access to higher education
• Diversity in college enrollment
• Empowerment through higher education
• Serving the common good through expanding educational opportunity

• Positive self-concept
• Realistic self-appraisal
• Successfully handling the system
• Preference for long-term goals
• Availability of a strong support person
• Leadership experience
• Community involvement
• Knowledge acquired in the field
Self-Efficacy

Self-efficacy beliefs are individual’s beliefs “about their capabilities to exercise control over events that affect their lives” (Bandura, 1989, p. 1175).

“People’s self-efficacy determine their level of motivation, as reflected in how much effort they will exert in an endeavor and how long they will persevere in the face of obstacles. The stronger the belief in their capabilities, the greater and more persistent are their efforts” (Bandura, 1989, p.1176).
Mission

Future U’s mission is to create a college going culture among middle school students by encouraging college preparation, access and enrollment.
Goal/ Focus
We focus on increasing knowledge and awareness through career exploration and academic preparation that is needed for postsecondary access and success.

Recruitment
Schools – 3 Middle Schools
Undergraduate Students

Empowerment through the development non-cognitive factors
• Positive self-concept
• Realistic self-appraisal
• Successfully handling the system
• Preference for long-term goals
• Availability of a strong support person
• Leadership experience
The Real on College Theatre Troupe
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- 7000+ students reached since the last fiscal year
- 50+ schools and community organizations served
- Areas visited include Detroit, Battle Creek and Muskegon among others
The Real on College Theatre Troupe

It’s education for kids that isn’t just teachers, it’s coming from other students, other kids. – *Steven Davenport, ROC Actor*

[The ROC is used] to teach [students] important skills such as teamwork and the relationships that you develop with different people. – *Lauren Winfrey, ROC Actor*

The kids that we perform for get something out of this. They interact with us, they give very thoughtful answers... One of the main things is being a sort of bridge between the kids and the University and giving back to them. – *Daniel Hernandez, ROC Actor*

Different people have different leadership skills and I was able to relate to some of the people in the skit. – *High School Student Participant*

I felt inspired on different ways of how to lead. – *High School Student Participant*

It’s nice for them to see that everyone can be a leader. The shy character was really great and had the good ideas but didn’t speak, it was just nice to see. We might have had some kids like that in the audience. – *Community Organization Affiliate*
Lessons Learned

• Create a undergraduate outreach staff that reflects the population that you are serving – “near peer” model

• Setting up a “space-space” that facilitates success

• Create a sense of community and ownership among your student staff

• Finding clever and age-appropriate ways to engage students

• Importance of reaching out early and often