THE OPPORTUNITY DEFICIT: 15K-RISE TOGETHER INITIATIVE

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Learning Objectives

The attendees will...

- Describe the 15K-Jefferson Rise Together Initiative.
- Identify ways colleges and universities can work with their local communities to help close the achievement gap.
- Identify strategies to implement at their institutions to help support Black/African American students.
- Discuss the importance and impact of creating wrap-around services to help address non-academic barriers.
ICEBREAKER
CROSS THE LINE…

- If you attended a community college?
- If you were a “traditional” college student?
- If you have experienced homelessness during college?
- If you experienced food insecurities during college?
- If you were a first-generation college student?
The Miner’s Canary

Early Warning Signs

- The distress of URM students is the first sign of a danger that threatens ALL students.
- Easy to assume that the sacrifice of the canary, URM students, only harms URM students.
- Any strategy used to support URM students inevitably helps all students.
- Instead of viewing and interpreting the issues and challenges of URM students as indicative of group pathology and their responsibility to fix, view those issues as symbolic of the broader systematic concerns.
- It isn’t the canary (URM students), the mine (colleges and universities) are toxic.
The Side Effects of Toxic Colleges and Universities
Bad Environments, Bad Health

Clue to longevity
Telomeres are caplike features at the ends of chromosomes that help protect them when cells divide.

Over time, due to ongoing cell division, telomeres become shorter. Telomere length appears to be an indication of age and the general health of an individual.

Source: The Nobel Committee for Physiology
ASSOCIATED PRESS
15K-Jefferson Rise Together Initiative

- Jefferson mentor and community mentor
- Enrichment activities and trips
- Monthly coaching appointments
- Service-learning opportunities
- Access to Persistence and Graduation Fund to address financial barriers
- First-Year Experience (FYE) and GEN 140 Black Student Leadership
- Preferred employment in the Multicultural Center (based on federal work-study eligibility or Ready to Work Program participation
- Academic support services
# 15K-Jefferson Rise Together Initiative

*Enrollment. Persistence. Graduation.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Count (17-18)</th>
<th>Count (18-19)</th>
<th>Fall 17 GPA</th>
<th>Spring 18 GPA</th>
<th>Fall 18 GPA</th>
<th>Spring 19 GPA</th>
<th>Cumulative GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Credential Seeking Students (All Students)</td>
<td>11,760</td>
<td>11,571</td>
<td>2.35 GPA</td>
<td>2.38 GPA</td>
<td>2.2 GPA</td>
<td>2.6 GPA</td>
<td>2.66 GPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American Students</td>
<td>2,765</td>
<td>2,835</td>
<td>1.96 GPA</td>
<td>1.93 GPA</td>
<td>2.24 GPA</td>
<td>2.26 GPA</td>
<td>2.29 GPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Zones of Hope Black/African American Students</td>
<td>1,898</td>
<td>2,407</td>
<td>2.0 GPA</td>
<td>1.95 GPA</td>
<td>2.23 GPA</td>
<td>2.26 GPA</td>
<td>2.29 GPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American Zones of Hope Students</td>
<td>867</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>1.85 GPA</td>
<td>1.89 GPA</td>
<td>2.30 GPA</td>
<td>2.30 GPA</td>
<td>2.35 GPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rise Together Scholars</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>2.74 GPA</td>
<td>2.6 GPA</td>
<td>2.2 GPA</td>
<td>2.08 GPA</td>
<td>2.79 GPA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Cumulative GPA is only the RT Persisters, 36 students*
Rise Together Year 2

- Students will have access to all the opportunities offered in Year 1 and more engaged in Rise Together initiative activities and supports (Must connect to at least 3 offerings) **ACHIEVED**

- Fall-to-Fall retention will outpace their peers Confirming data with CPE; CPE Snapshot Day was November 1st

- 80% will maintain good academic standing **66% maintained a GPA of 2.0 or better**

- 20% will utilize the tutoring and/or coaching services **96% of students participated in coaching appointments**

- 75% paired with an external/internal mentor **47% of Rise Together Scholars were paired with an external or internal mentor**

- 80% of those enrolled in GEN 140 Black Student Leadership course will pass **84% of Rise Together Scholars passed the course**
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Rise Together Year 2

- The student-to-coach ratio must be minimized to at least 15-20 students
- Hiring of two Student Success Coaches *(paid internship positions)*
- Creation of additional programmatic budget for Rise Together students
- Restructure departments that support URM and low-income students to best serve students
- Coaching meetings must be scheduled around major academic events
- Student barriers are broken down into three core areas:
  - Personal
  - Financial
  - Academic
- Exposure is the difference maker- Students who attended enrichment trips were twice as likely to return the next fall
- Link coursework to career/employment and find mentors who students can identify with
- Usage of predictive analytic software

THANK YOU
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This is PRE-FORMATTED FOR section heads