



Black Male and QUEENS Focus Group at Henry Ford College presents:

**The 2nd Annual Black Male Retention:
Best Practices and Student Success Conference**

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Kalvin DaRonne Harvell. I am the coordinator of the Black Male and Quintessential, Unique, Essence of Ebony, Necessary, Sisters (QUEENS) Focus Group, a comprehensive academic and social support network on the campus of Henry Ford College.

**Conference will be held at Henry Ford College, Dearborn, MI
on April 18, 2020**

The main purpose of the upcoming conference will be to build upon the statewide conversations and network that began at last year's inaugural convening. Indeed, the spirit of our first conference combined a distinguished group of scholar-activists dedicated to the creation of sustainable programs that are designed to positively impact the college experience, retention, and graduation rates of Black male students. Based on our understanding of the complexity of college retention rates, specifically among Black male students, we purposely view that best practices for increasing retention and graduation are ideologically connected. Yet, we require uniquely separate praxis contingents regarding the organizational culture of the institution and cultural knowledge assets that each student brings to a campus. Thus, the goals for the 2nd annual conference are to continue to interrogate the challenges that impede both the retention and success of Black male college students. The objective is to strive for articulation, development, and implementation of meaningful strategies and deliberate sustainable programs to address the challenges. The strategies and program solutions derived from this year's conference may be applicable to other student retention processes. The 2020 conference is designed for students and practitioners alike, because specific plenary sessions will address the needs of members of both groups.

Conference Theme

(Kujichagulia) Through OUR will, WE will succeed: More than a philosophy. We must embrace the work!

Conference Tracks

The symposium is designed to establish clear academic and success pathways from high schools, to community colleges, to 4-year institutions, and beyond. Thus, two distinct conference tracks have been established to address the unique needs of students and practitioners regardless of their academic locations. Therefore, pathways are uniquely designed for individuals preparing for college (College Preparatory Academy) and individuals who are currently enrolled in a college (College Success Academy). Additionally, several other plenary sessions have been designed to address the needs of practitioners who work with members of underrepresented student populations.

Interdisciplinary Scope of the Conference

The theme of the conference will not and cannot be minimized and locked into one area or academic discipline. We desire to have a wide range of informational sessions designed to enhance the collective academic imagination of Black students. Thus, we are seeking sessions that address the following issues, but will not be limited to the following issues:

History of Black education/Artistic productions/Black participation in STEM & STEAM/Black history/Economics/Entrepreneurial ventures/Black male retention (best practices)/Female/male relationships/Spirituality/Afrocentrism/Black studies

If you are interested in presenting at this upcoming conference, please send the required materials to Dr. Kalvin DaRonne Harvell (Founder & Conference Chair) at kharvell@hfcc.edu by January 31, 2020. Required materials include:

- Session Title
- An abstract of your presentation (maximum of 250 words)
- Name of lead presenter and institutional affiliation
- Identify the session type (workshop, paper presentation, panel, etc.)

You will be notified of your acceptance by February 10, 2020.

Respectfully,

Kalvin DaRonne Harvell, PhD, EdS. - Conference Founder and Chair
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