Young Men of Color: Charting a Way for Educational Success

Wednesday, April 18, 2012
Overview

College Board Advocacy & Policy Center:
The Educational Experience of Young Men of Color Initiative

For more than a century, the College Board has been committed to the principles of excellence and equity in education. In keeping with that commitment, we support initiatives that ensure a future where America is, once again, the world leader in college graduates. As the nation’s population grows more diverse, it becomes increasingly important to address the disparate educational opportunities available to different groups in the United States. We are certain to fall short of our goal without a national effort that focuses on improving the educational experiences of young men of color and the diversity on our college campuses.

In support of this critical issue, in 2008, the College Board Advocacy & Policy Center (Center) convened researchers, activists and practitioners in what were called “Dialogue Days.” Dialogue Days discussions centered on the educational experiences of young men of color from four general ethnic populations: African Americans; Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; Hispanic/Latino Americans; and Native Americans and Alaska Natives. Information from the conversations was published in The Educational Crisis Facing Young Men of Color, released in January 2010. Based on those conversations, the Center performed data and policy analyses and conducted qualitative research to increase the understanding of and help shape solutions to improve the educational experiences of young men of color.

After the release of The Educational Crisis Facing Young Men of Color, the Center compiled an extensive data- and research-driven report and collaborated with the Business Innovation Factory and EducationCounsel LLC to include student perspectives and policy implications called The Educational Experience of Young Men of Color: A Review of Research, Pathways and Progress; Capturing the Student Voice; and Federal Legal Implications and Policy Guidance on the educational experiences of young men of color. Together, these three reports provide a comprehensive understanding of the issues affecting the academic performance of young men of color and offer a compelling narrative that tracks the progress and pitfalls for them on their way to college.

The Center’s goal is to improve educational participation and increase college completion for young men of color in the United States so that more of these students graduate from college prepared to succeed in careers and in life. We must raise awareness and visibility to heighten the urgency of this issue and to increase the national dialogue around the educational crisis facing young men of color.
Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) Pathways to College Network

The Pathways to College Network is an alliance of national organizations that advances college opportunity for underserved students by raising public awareness, supporting innovative research, and promoting evidence-based policies and practices across the K-12 and higher education sectors. Pathways promotes the use of research-based policies and practices, the development of new research that is both rigorous and actionable, and the alignment of efforts across middle school, high school, and higher education in order to promote college access and success for underserved students. The Pathways to College Network is directed by the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP). IHEP is an independent, nonprofit organization in Washington, DC, dedicated to increasing access and success in postsecondary education around the world.

The convening, Young Men of Color: Charting a Way for Educational Success, is one component of a line of work Pathways is conducting on the experiences of men of color in higher education. Other activities include research reports, webinars, and public relations campaigns designed to raise awareness about the challenges these student groups face and to propose actionable solutions to address them and support student success.
Agenda
Wednesday April 18, 2012
Room: Holeman Lounge

2:00 pm  Opening Young Men of Color Video
          Welcome & State of the Issue
          Ronald A. Williams, Vice President, The College Board

          National Perspective
          Neil Horikoshi, President & Executive Director, The Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund

          Introduction of Shawn Dove & Jacob Fraire
          Neil Horikoshi, President & Executive Director, The Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund

2:15 pm  Opening Remarks
          Shawn Dove, Campaign Manager, Campaign for Black Male Achievement, Open Society Foundations

2:30 pm  Moderated Discussion
          Moderated by: Jacob Fraire, Vice President, Student and Institutional Success, Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation
          ● Tyrone Bledsoe, Founder/Executive Director, Student African American Brotherhood
          ● Toby Chaudhuri, Strategic Communications Consultant, White House Initiatives
          ● Hema Katoa, Counselor, Student Intervention Services, Jordan School District
          ● John Michael Lee, Jr., Policy Director, Advocacy & Policy Center, The College Board
          ● Victor Sáenz, Assistant Professor, Higher Education Administration, The University of Texas at Austin

3:10 pm  Introduction of David Banks
          Michelle Asha Cooper, President, IHEP

          Closing Remarks
          David Banks, President & CEO, Eagle Academy Foundation; Co-chair NYC Young Men’s Initiative

3:30 pm  Q&A
          Jacob Fraire, Vice President, Student and Institutional Success, Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation

3:55 pm  Call to Action
          Michelle Asha Cooper, President, IHEP

4:00 pm  Networking reception immediately following in First Amendment Lounge
Biographies

David Banks
President & CEO, Eagle Academy Foundation; Co-chair NYC Young Men’s Initiative

David C. Banks is the President/CEO of The Eagle Academy Foundation. He was the Founding Principal of The Eagle Academy for Young Men, the first school in a network of innovative all-boys public schools in New York City. As President, he is responsible for the leadership and management of the organization, which is charged with the replication of the successful Eagle model. Since opening in 2004, the Eagle Academy family has grown to encompass a total of three schools in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens, and is expanding its vision nationally.

Prior to becoming principal of Eagle, David served as the Founding Principal of The Bronx School for Law, Government & Justice. This theme-based high school provided a unique opportunity for him to combine his law and education background. During his tenure, David helped spearhead a community-wide effort to secure a permanent home for the school. As a result, Bronx Law is now housed in a $75 million state of the art facility, representing an unprecedented partnership between the criminal justice community and an inner-city high school.

David is a graduate of Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey and received his Juris Doctorate from St. John’s University. He earned his Educational Administration and Supervision certification in only one semester by attending three colleges: Brooklyn College, City College and Baruch College.

David and his wife Marion reside in New Jersey. They have four children, Jamaal, Aaliyah, Ali and Malcolm Rashaad, and one grandchild, Hayleigh.

Toby Chaudhuri
Strategic Communications Consultant, White House Initiatives

Toby Chaudhuri has worked with major advocacy and labor organizations, national political campaigns and people in public office around the world for more than a decade. He currently directs communications for several of President Barack Obama’s race-based White House Initiatives, focused on increasing access to federal benefits for underrepresented minorities who need them most, and he advises the State Department on engaging youth populations in the Middle East and North Africa. Most recently, Chaudhuri helped Dilma Rousseff become the first female president of Brazil and helped re-elect Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., in major upset midterm elections as a senior strategist at Revolution Messaging.

Chaudhuri directed several campaigns to enact major economic, energy, health care and education reforms. While at the Campaign for America’s Future, he helped create the Apollo Alliance, which introduced the idea of investing in clean energy to produce a new generation of high-skilled American jobs into the national debate. He helped lead the Campaign for College Affordability, which helped pass the largest federal student aid package since the G.I. Bill and he helped build the Health Care for America Now coalition that made Yale University Professor Jacob Hacker’s plan to have a public health insurance option compete with private insurers famous in the recent health care debate. Chaudhuri did his undergraduate studies in economics, mathematics and political science at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and completed graduate-level fellowships in mathematics and econometrics at the Indian
Michelle Asha Cooper
President, IHEP
Michelle Asha Cooper, Ph.D., is president of the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP). While leading one of the world’s premier research and policy centers, she oversees the organization’s expansive research portfolio and innovative programmatic activities focusing on access and success, accountability, diversity, finance, and global impact. In September 2008, Cooper became the second IHEP president responsible for developing new ideas and strategic approaches that help low-income, minority, and other historically underrepresented student populations gain access to and achieve success in postsecondary education.

Cooper is a well-respected education policy leader. With a career dedicated to and rooted in the postsecondary community, she most recently served as the deputy director for the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance (Advisory Committee) at the U.S. Department of Education. The Advisory Committee is an independent, nonpartisan committee created by Congress to provide advice and counsel to Congress and the Secretary of Education on higher education and student aid policy. In this position, she interacted with policymakers, oversaw all policy research activities, and managed day-to-day operations. Before joining the Advisory Committee, Cooper held various leadership positions at the Association of American Colleges and Universities, Council for Independent Colleges, and King’s College.

A native of Charleston, S.C., Cooper received her B.A. from the College of Charleston, an M.P.S. from Cornell University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, College Park. An expert on various higher education issues, Cooper is well versed in higher education access and success (domestic and international); equitable reform of higher education; student learning and outcomes, particularly for low-income, racial/ethnic minorities, first-generation, and underrepresented populations; federal policy and trends; tuition and financial aid; college readiness and preparation; and educational leadership and management.

Shawn Dove, Campaign Manager
Campaign for Black Male Achievement, Open Society Foundations
Shawn Dove joined the Open Society Institute in May 2008 as manager of the Campaign for Black Male Achievement. He has more than two decades of leadership experience in youth development, education, and community building. Dove served as one of the founding directors of New York City’s Beacon School movement in the early 1990s while working with the Harlem Children’s Zone. As creative communities director for the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts, he led a national initiative that partnered community schools of the arts and public housing communities in 20 U.S. cities.

As New York vice president for Mentor/National Mentoring Partnership, he initiated a strategic response to the lack of African American and Latino male mentors for New York City’s boys by creating a public awareness and recruitment initiative called The Male Mentoring Project.
In 2006, Dove founded Proud Poppa, a publication for African American fathers and is a co-founder of Harlem Men Stand Up, an empowerment project that holds quarterly summits in Harlem. Dove was a Charles H. Revson Fellow at Columbia University in 1993 and received a B.A. in English from Wesleyan University.

**Jacob Fraire**  
*Vice President, Student and Institutional Success, Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation*  
Jacob Fraire worked as an education lobbyist in Washington, DC representing institutions and non-profit organizations in the secondary and higher education sectors. He provided federal relations representation to the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), National Association of Student Employment Administrators, National Association for Migrant Education, Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, and guaranty agencies participating in the federal student loan programs. He served as director of legislation and policy analysis for HACU and as senior legislative coordinator for the law firm of Jorden, Burt, Berenson, & Johnson, LLP, where he represented research universities. His areas of expertise extend to elementary and secondary education and higher education authorization statutes and the federal budget and appropriations processes.

In 1998, Mr. Fraire joined the non-profit Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation (TG), serving as assistant vice president and later as vice president for student and institutional success. He leads the company’s philanthropic and community service department. He oversees TG’s national and state efforts in pre-collegiate outreach, financial literacy, community college policy and practice, enrollment management services, philanthropy, and an academic journal. He designed and leads TG’s Public Benefit Program, which has since 2005 provided more than $50 million in grant funding to advance college access and success, need-based financial aid, and education research. In 2010, Mr. Fraire was appointed by Secretary of Education Arne Duncan to serve on the Committee on Measures of Student Success, a federal advisory committee authorized by Congress in 2008. He has served on the board of directors for the Houston Hispanic Forum and as chair of the corporate advisory committee for the Council for Opportunity in Education.

The son of migrant farm-workers, Mr. Fraire earned a bachelor’s degree from St. Edward’s University in Austin and a master’s degree in public affairs from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin.

**Neil Horikoshi**  
*President & Executive Director, The Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund*  
Neil Horikoshi joined the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) in 2008 as the President & Executive Director after a distinguished 30-year career at International Business Machines Corporation (IBM), where he served in a variety of legal and executive management positions in the United States and Asia Pacific.

Based in Washington, D.C., APIASF is the country’s largest non-profit organization devoted to providing college scholarships to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. APIASF strives to ensure that all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have access to higher education and resources that cultivate their academic, personal and professional
success regardless of their ethnicity, national origin or financial means. Since its inception, APIASF has provided a critical bridge to higher education by distributing more than $50 million in scholarships to deserving AAPI students.

Prior to joining APIASF, Neil served as IBM's Managing Director of Global Business Development, Global Services in the US and in Asia Pacific, where he led the team of IBM Global Services deal team professionals in a wide range of complex multi-year services engagements throughout Asia Pacific. Neil also has led industry discussions on regulatory and procurement issues affecting the information technology industry, developed external relationships with key governmental agencies on behalf of IBM, participated in Congressional and Executive Branch advocacy meetings, and spoke frequently at trade association and federal government conferences on procurement issues.

Neil is also active in the community and in business. He serves as Chairman of the Board of the Aplastic Anemia & MDS International Foundation, Advisory Council member for both the Asian American Justice Center and the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies. Neil was also recently appointed to the Board of Directors for BB&T Bank, Washington DC.

**Hema Katoa**

*Counselor, Student Intervention Services, Jordan School District*

Hema Katoa is Tongan American and a lifelong resident of Utah. He is the proud husband of a wonderful wife and father of three beautiful children. His life experience in the local community and school system has given him a unique perspective regarding diversity and culture. Katoa has a Master's of Social Work, Bachelor’s of Sociology, and a Criminology Certificate from the University of Utah and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. He has worked as a Counselor/Specialist for Student Intervention Services in the Jordan School District for thirteen years. His responsibilities include individual and group counseling (K-12), training on at-risk behaviors, response to crisis situations as a member of the District Crisis Team, and support for school administration, teachers, and staff.

Katoa is Owner/Operator of Hemaloto Katoa LCSW, LLC, where he provides individual, marriage, and family counseling. Katoa specializes in serving the Pacific Islander community and provides culturally competent mental health services, training, and consulting. Katoa currently serves on the Salt Lake County Commission On Youth and as co-chair of the Salt Lake Area Gang Project Community Advisory Board. He has served as a board member for the National Association of Pacific Islanders and currently serves as a board member of the National Tongan American Society. He has presented and trained at many agencies, associations and conferences and has been utilized as a community and culture expert in Utah state and federal court in cases involving Pacific Islanders.

In October 2009, Katoa chaired the Pacific Islander Leadership Summit on Criminal Justice committee that planned and executed a first of its kind Pacific Islander gathering held in the Rotunda of the Utah State Capitol with over 300 Pacific Islander leaders in attendance. In 2011, Katoa was asked to help organize and present at an event for the Pacific Islander community called “Navigating Our Future” in partnership with the local newspaper and media group. The event had more than 500 Pacific Islander participants and drew international attention from as far away as New Zealand and Australia. As a volunteer, Katoa has addressed cultural identity with Pacific Islander inmates at the state prison. He also serves at church as a youth and scout leader of a Pacific Islander congregation. Katoa is currently
working on the “Polynesian Prevention Project”, an effort to reduce the risk factors contributing to drug and alcohol use and anti-social behaviors among Pacific Islanders through culturally appropriate and centered prevention programming.

**John Michael Lee, Jr.**  
*Policy Director, Advocacy & Policy Center, The College Board*  
John Michael Lee, Jr. is the policy director for the Advocacy & Policy Center at the College Board. Lee earned his Ph.D. in higher education administration from New York University and his M.P.A. with a concentration in economic development from the Andrew Young School at Georgia State University. Lee works on a variety of projects that include: *College Completion Agenda Progress Report; College Completion Agenda: Latino Edition; 2011 National Survey of School Counselors*; and the *Educational Experience of Young Men of Color*. Lee’s research interests include student access and participation in higher education, student preparation, and higher education policy. Prior to joining the College Board, Lee served as a policy analyst for the Georgia Department of Economic Development. Lee is a member of several professional associations including the American Educational Research Association (AERA), the National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME), the Association for Institutional Research (AIR), and the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE).

**Victor Sáenz**  
*Assistant Professor, Higher Education Administration, The University of Texas at Austin*  
Victor B. Sáenz, Ph.D., is a fifth-year assistant professor in the Department of Educational Administration at The University of Texas at Austin. He is also a faculty affiliate with the UT Center for Mexican American Studies, a Faculty Fellow with the UT Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, and a Faculty Associate with the UCLA Higher Education Research Institute.

Sáenz has published in numerous peer-reviewed journals and also has three book projects underway, including one on Latino males in higher education (Stylus Publishing). His current research on this topic examines Latino males’ experiences at both two-year and four-year institutions as they navigate their college pathways. In Summer 2011, Sáenz spoke about his research and programmatic work on Capitol Hill, and he continues to work closely with the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) and the College Board’s Policy & Advocacy Center on their campaigns to raise awareness about the crisis facing young men of color in education.

Sáenz has received several notable accolades in his young academic career. In 2009, he was named by *Diverse Magazine* as “One of 25 to Watch” diversity leaders in American higher education. In fall 2010, he was recognized as one of seven “ING Professors of Excellence” among over two thousand faculty members at The University of Texas. Over the years, he has been quoted and cited in numerous news stories, policy reports, and scholarly publications, and his research work on Latino males in higher education continues to gain national attention. He is a member of two distinguished editorial boards for peer-reviewed journals in his field, and he is an active member of several national associations focused on higher education issues, including ASHE, AERA, AIR, AAHHE, TACHE, and the College Board.
In 2005, Sáenz received his Ph.D. from UCLA in Higher Education and Organizational Change with a focus on access, equity, and diversity issues in post-secondary education. Sáenz was a Spencer Foundation pre-doctoral fellow while at UCLA, where he also completed a Master’s in Education in 2002. He also received a Master’s degree in Public Affairs (1999) and a Bachelor’s degree in Mathematics (1996) from The University of Texas at Austin. Sáenz was born and raised in the Rio Grande Valley, and he is proud graduate of La Joya High School.

Ronald A. Williams
Vice President, The College Board

Ronald Williams is a vice president of the College Board. One of his areas of responsibility is strengthening the relationship between the College Board and community colleges nationally. Dr. Williams served as president of Prince George’s Community College in Largo, Maryland from 1999 until 2007. Previously, he served as acting president of the Community College of Philadelphia. Dr. Williams’ civic and professional engagements include the following boards and organizations: member of the International Advisory Board of the Chair Academy; the American Council on Education’s Commission on Leadership and Institutional Effectiveness; the American Council on Education’s Center for Policy Analysis Advisory Committee; and the past chair of the board of the Directorate for Education and Human Resources of the National Science Foundation. Dr. Williams received his doctorate in literature, his master’s degree in English, and his bachelor’s degree in history and English from Lehigh University.