BLACK MALE COLLEGE EXPLORERS PROGRAM
“Investing in the Future, for the Future”

Presented by
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Community Outreach and Retention/Director
Black Male College Explorers Program
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Florida Memorial University

Mary A. O’Banner Ph.D., Acting President
Pre-College Outreach Programs Mission Statement

The primary mission of the Pre-College Outreach Programs Department at Florida Memorial University is to develop programs and services that augment academic opportunities for students in middle and high schools and facilitate their efforts to complete high school, earn a college degree, find meaningful employment or pursue graduate studies.
Florida Memorial University’s “Black Male College Explorers Program” is an at risk intervention program designed specifically for Black Males. High schools and middle schools are asked to identify “At-Risk” Black Males in grades 7th-12th. A team of school and community leaders provides supportive services for the students during the regular school year. Florida Memorial University provides five weeks of highly concentrated developmental experiences during the summer while students live on campus. An appropriate number of high school and college professors are hired to teach S.T.E.M. subjects that include Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Personal growth and developmental activities are provided through weekly seminars and workshops.
Purpose

The goals of the program are:
• To increase the amount of Black Males graduating from high school
• Facilitate their admission to college and
• Significantly increase their chances of earning a college degree.
Eligibility

- A middle school or high school Black Male in grades 7th – 12th.
- A depressed grade point average that does not adequately represent the potential of the student.
- A history of disciplinary problems or the propensity to display irregular behavior.
- An expressed interest in the program.
- A willingness to consider post-secondary education after high school.
- Any unique situation/problem that makes a student potentially at-risk.
Program Objectives

- To decrease the disproportionate number of illiterate Black Males.
- To decrease the number of Black Males dropouts from high school.
- To decrease the number of Black Males suspended or expelled from school for disciplinary reasons.
- To decrease the number of Black Males unemployed and/or under-employed.
- To decrease the steady decline in the rate of Black Males who enter and complete college, as a viable alternative for improving their quality of life.
Services

The following component of services will be provided to students:

**Phase One**
- Academic support activities.
- Personal developmental seminars
- Mentoring
- Career exploration and planning seminars
- College orientation and motivational activities
- Jail Tours
- Cultural Field Trips

**Phase Two**
- Five (5) weeks of academic experimental instruction.
- Five(5) weeks of college residential life.
- Lodging, food, books, and classroom materials
- Transportation to and from Florida Memorial University.
- Summer matriculation for 9th –12th grade students.
Program Goals-Outcomes

The successful attainment of the following program is projected:

- Seventy-five percent of the participants will have a .5 percent increase in their grade point average (GPA).
- Ninety percent of the participants will meet the minimum requirements for college prior to high school graduation.
- Ninety percent of the participants will graduate from high school.
- Eighty percent of the graduates will enroll in either technical school or college.
- Ten percent of the participants will enter the work force.
- Eighty percent of the participants will demonstrate favorable changes in attitude and behavior.

A collaborative partnership will be formed by teachers, guidance counselors, the business community, social service organizations, and parents to promote the attainment of the program’s goals. Goals will be measured by observation, student academic performance and achievement, standardize test scores, pre/post assessment test, and pre/post attitude surveys.
Community Needs

The need for such a project is manifested by the high percentage of Black males currently represented in negative categories that include:

- A disproportionate number of Black males illiterate;
- A disproportionate number of Black male drop outs;
- A disproportionate number of Black number of males are unemployed and/or underemployed;
- A disproportionate number of Black males involved with the criminal justice system;
- A disproportionate number of Black males who are becoming a disruptive force in the home, school, and community;
- A disproportionate number of Black males are becoming teen fathers and are at-risk for exposure to a variety of sexually transmitted diseases (STD’S), including AIDS
- The declining rate of Black males who enter and complete college as a viable alternative for improving their quality of life.

## BMCEP Enrollment History 2003-2012

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<td>82</td>
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<td>73</td>
<td>55</td>
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For a decade, the Black Male College Explorers Program’s enrollment history has been moderately progressive. This is not accidental as the program’s greater intentions were to systematically increase the enrollment of the program by a continual infusion of productive and positive initiatives. Also, as the enrollment increased for the BMCEP, useful resources within the community, as well as the corporate sector, became more available.
BMCEP Enrollment History 2003 - 2012

- 12th Grade: 111
- 11th Grade: 71
- 10th Grade: 71
- 9th Grade: 102
- 8th Grade: 68
- 7th Grade: 28
### BMCEP Retention Rates 2003-2012

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<td>66%</td>
<td>93%</td>
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<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>21%</td>
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As a result of integrating staunch parental support with meaningful educational programs that address students’ well being, retention within the BMCEP has continued progress. Program data indicates that the BMCEP has retained an average of 94% of its participants since 2003. With the continued support and cooperation from the Miami-Dade County School Board, Parents, external and internal institutions of higher education, the program expects to continue its growth and expansion.
### BMCEP Graduation Rates 2003-2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Years</th>
<th>Total # of Seniors</th>
<th>Total # Graduated</th>
<th>Percent (%) Graduated</th>
<th>Total Attended College</th>
<th>Percent Attended College</th>
<th>Armed Forces</th>
<th>Employment</th>
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<td>03-04</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>90%</td>
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<td>04-05</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>100%</td>
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<td>95%</td>
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<td>05-06</td>
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<td>100%</td>
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<td>06-07</td>
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<td>07-08</td>
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<td>100%</td>
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<td>08-09</td>
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<td>09-10</td>
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<td>10-11</td>
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<td>100%</td>
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<td>100%</td>
<td>14</td>
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Clearly, Black Male College Explorers Program graduation rate speaks for itself. Since inception, 100% of seniors have graduated from high school and subsequently attended post-secondary education, joined the armed forces, or obtained employment.
History of the Black Male College Explorers Program

The concept of the Black Male College Explorers Program was initiated in 1992 at Florida A & M University campus in Tallahassee, Florida. Florida Memorial University, 1995 along with Bethune Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida, and Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, Florida, began to host the program at their campus as well. The purpose in initiating the Black Male College Explorers Program at the four historically Black Colleges and Universities in Florida, was to establish an academic consortium for this five-year program to impact and uplift the quality of life for at-risk black males.

Since the adoption of the Black Male College Explorers Program (BMCEP), on Florida Memorial University campus, Florida Memorial University’s Black Male College Explorers Program has received a great deal of interest and attention by the South Florida community and has made a significant impact on the lives of At-risk males and their families. Florida Memorial University’s Black Male College Explorers Program is a year round program with operates on two (2) phases which are specifically designed to help youth “Realize that Success is a Journey, Not a Destination”.

High schools and middle schools are asked to identify “At-Risk Black Males in grades 7th-12th. A team of school and community leaders provides supportive services for the students during the regular school year. Florida Memorial University provides six weeks of highly concentrated developmental experiences during the summer while students live on campus. An appropriate number of high school and college teachers are hired to teach S.T.E.M. subjects that include Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Also provided are pre-standardized tests i.e., ACT, SAT, FCAT to help achieve programs goals which are, To increase the amount of black males graduating from high school, facilitate their admission to college, and significantly increase their chances of earning a college degree. Personal growth and developmental activities are provided through bi-weekly seminars and workshops.

The Black Male College Explorers Program clearly is a program where it’s graduation rates speaks for itself. Since inception, 100% of seniors have graduated from high school, attending post-secondary education, joined the armed forces, or obtained employment.
One Hundred (100%) high school graduation rate.
One Hundred (100%) high school graduates attending college.
Sixty-Six (66%) high school graduates attended a Historically Black College/University.
Forty Eight (42%) high school graduates attended Florida Memorial University.
Retention rate increased from 83% to 94%.
Average SAT score – 1050.
Average high school GPA – 2.85.
Partnered with Gates Millennium Scholars Program & UNCF
Received 50,000 from AT & T as corporate donation
Preserved the BMCEP “Adopt A Highway” Road
Received 7,500 from TD Bank
Met monthly with Parents of program participants
Coordinated with the National Action Network (NAN)
Black Male Statistics

- Only 16.3% of black males have obtained undergraduate and/or graduate degrees (2000 US Census Bureau Information)
- Black males make up only 11% of the total college population. (1999 Digest of Educational Statistics)
- Black males attend college at a rate of 10.2%, while black women attend college at a 13.7% rate. (2000 National Center for Educational Statistics)
- It is estimated that 30% of black males between the ages of 20 to 29 are under correctional supervision. (2001 Bureau of Justice Statistics)
- By the time they reach high school, Census statistics show that 42 percent of all African-American boys have failed an entire grade at least once.
- Just 18% of Black men ages 20-21 are enrolled in college, according to the 2000 Census.
- Only 34% of the Black students who earn bachelor's degrees are male. U.S. Department of Education (2004).
- There were 791,600 black men in correctional facilities in 2000 and 603,032 enrolled in higher education. “This means there were 188,500 more African-American men incarcerated than in higher education,” (Justice Policy Institute)
- Iain Murray, Director of Research at the Statistical Assessment Services of JPI said U.S. Census Bureau figures show that there were 469,000 African-American males ages 18 to 24 enrolled in college in 2000, compared with 180,000 in prison or jail.
- Black men and other male racial minorities earned 9% of bachelor’s degrees awarded in 2003-04, up from 5% in 1976-77 and lags behind that of women of color, who tripled the number of bachelor’s degrees they earned during the same period, from 5% to 15%.
- A clear female majority has emerged among Whites, Hispanics and blacks. Only Asian women have parity with Asian men.
- Among traditional-age students (age 24 or younger), males have dropped from 48% of total enrollment in 1995-96 to 45% in 2003-04.
Contact Information

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