BACKGROUND:
The University System of Georgia’s African-American Male Initiative (AAMI) was launched in Fall 2002, via an extensive quantitative and qualitative research study and the collective work of a 52-person statewide task force comprised of higher education, K-12, civic and business leaders (the Task Force on Enhancing Access for African-American Males). The qualitative research consisted of 17 focus groups with Black males – 16 conducted on geographically and demographically diverse University System campuses, and one conducted at a prison with a high population of African-American male inmates. The quantitative research consisted of telephone surveys with 700 members of the targeted cohorts: Black males, their parents, teachers and others who influence their academic choices.

The research and task force efforts culminated in Spring 2003, with the development of a comprehensive report and 15 specific recommendations for submission to the Board of Regents, both of which were formally adopted by the board in May. (See http://www.usg.edu/aami for PDFs of the report and http://www.usg.edu/news/2003/052103.phtml for an electronic copy of the news release regarding the recommendations.)

In addition to issuing the report and recommendations for action, many AAMI Pilot Programs have been launched at various USG institutions in four different rounds of funding conducted during the 2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006 and the 2007-2008 academic years. These pilot programs were aimed at identifying successful strategies to enhance the recruitment, retention and graduation of Black males in the respective USG institutions that were awarded funding. Resulting “best practices” information has been collected and shared both within the University System and with the larger higher education community. In particular, comprehensive information sharing was conducted via the Inaugural AAMI Best Practices Conference held on November 30 and December 1, 2007, at Kennesaw State University, which drew approximately 250 attendees from throughout the state (see: http://www.usg.edu/aami/bestpractices07). In addition, AAMI best practices have been shared with external sources that continue to identify the USG as a model in this arena.

In Round One of the AAMI pilot programs, six USG institutions received $10,000 each to implement and/or support new or existing programs aimed at addressing the barriers to Black male college matriculation (see http://www.usg.edu/news/2003/041603-1.phtml).

In Round Two of the pilots, collaborative programs were funded in three strategic areas of the state: Atlanta, Albany and Savannah. Two USG “sister institutions” in each of the three locations were required to join together, along with a civic partner already engaged in work with Black males, on a single collaborative project. In all, six USG institutions received $27,000 each for this phase of work – or $54,000 per project – for their collaboration. (See news release on Round Two at http://www.usg.edu/news/2004/062904.phtml)
In Round Three, ten USG institutions received a total of $200,000 in funding, ranging from $15,000 to $30,000 in individual grants (see: http://www.usg.edu/news/2005/111005-2.phtml ). The grants supported both new and existing programs, and required participating USG institutions to join with mandatory community partners focused on achieving the Initiative’s goals. In addition, participating grantees were required to provide matching funds, dollar for dollar. The projects civic and community partners could contribute a portion, but not all, of the matching amount.

In Round Four, eleven USG institutions received a total of $200,000 in funding, ranging from $10,000 to $28,500 in individual grants (see: http://www.usg.edu/aami/news/2008/040108.phtml ). The grants supported both new and existing programs, and required participating USG institutions to join with mandatory community partners focused on achieving the Initiative’s goals. In addition, participating grantees were required to provide matching funds, dollar for dollar. The projects civic and community partners could contribute a portion, but not all, of the matching amount.

NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: 2009

The University System of Georgia will award a new round of AAMI pilot funding to USG institutions in early 2009. These funds may be used to conduct programs in Summer 2009 and/or during the 2009-2010 academic years. New and existing programs will be eligible for consideration. Round Five AAMI Grants will range from $10,000 to $40,000 (thanks to the receipt of external funds received by AAMI).

Once again, the USG seeks to foster and bolster programs that have an ultimate goal of self-sustainability. Therefore, grant-seeking institutions must indicate their desire and ability to fully match the total amount of their award (e.g., a $20,000 grant must be matched by an institutional commitment of $20,000). Again, as in Round Four, the institutional funding commitment may be partially shared with (but may not be fully absorbed by) an involved civic partner or philanthropic entity. Funding proposals must specify how all of the funding will be utilized (both the AAMI award and the mandatory institutional match), and all funds also must be accounted for in the required budget and evaluative reports.

These funding requirements reflect the evolution of the pilot programs from an initiative that initially funded individual projects, then collaborative projects, and now is encouraging the development of projects with the potential for sustainability beyond the AAMI funding source.

AAMI/Lumina Sub-Grants

Due to the success of the USG’s AAMI program, we have secured a major grant from the Lumina Foundation for Education of $500,000. These funds will cover a two-year period, and the interim and final reporting stipulations will be rigorous and data driven. In conjunction with this new grant, AAMI is soliciting proposals from USG institutions for programs focused strictly on Black male retention and graduation efforts. Both current AAMI programs and proposed new initiatives are eligible to compete for these funds. Awards will range from $20,000 to $40,000 over the two-year period, with the noted matching fund requirement. Reporting deadlines for these grants will be aligned with the reporting periods that Lumina has outlined for the overhaul grant to the USG.

In addition, there will be two other funding cycles for AAMI programs, distributing an additional $150,000 in funding:
AAMI/Early College Collaboration
The first new program will focus on our newly established partnership with the USG’s Early College Program (see: [http://www.gaearlycollege.org/](http://www.gaearlycollege.org/)). This initiative will fund collaborations between existing USG Early Colleges and existing AAMI programs. Early College and AAMI officials will invite selected institutions to apply for these funds. Awards will range between $10,000 and $20,000. The goal of this effort is to expand the number of Black males participating in the USG’s Early College (EC) schools and programs, and to encourage current Black male EC participants to pursue post-secondary matriculation. Letters of interest presently are being solicited from Early College program directors regarding participating in this initiative. If there is a USG Early College site in your service area, and you are interested in engaging in such a partnership, please contact your local area Early College Program director to communicate your interest.

AAMI Start-Up Programs
The second initiative will focus on establishing new AAMI programs in areas of the state where there is great documented need to expand educational opportunities for Black males, and no existing USG AAMI efforts. Standard AAMI partnership requirements will be mandatory, and strong institutional commitment should be reflected for sustaining such efforts. The amount of these awards will be $10,000 mini-grants.

GOALS FOR POTENTIAL INITIATIVES:
AAMI pilot grants are aimed at providing operational funding to establish or support specific or collaborative programs that will increase the enrollment, retention and graduation of African-American males from USG colleges and universities. Funding preference will be given to those programs that offer measurable strategies to address challenges impacting Black male college matriculation, including, but not limited to, the following initiatives:

- Programs that enhance African-American males’ successful orientation to the college experience and their subsequent retention, such as summer bridge and orientation programs for freshmen Black males that will prepare them for academic success;
- Targeted efforts that track the academic performance of Black males’ undergraduate matriculation; including grade monitoring, advising and counseling;
- Campus learning-community initiatives specifically for Black males;
- Initiatives that aid in the assessment and enhancement of the campus climate for African-American males;
- Initiatives that foster enhanced student affairs engagement by African-American males to enhance their retention.
- Internships and career planning/placement initiatives for Black males that enhance their retention and “work-readiness” upon graduation.

CRITERIA FOR FUNDING PROPOSALS:
The templates for applying for either the AAMI Lumina sub-grant or the AAMI Start-Up opportunities may be downloaded from the AAMI website, at [http://www.usg.edu/aami](http://www.usg.edu/aami). Funding proposals must address the following criteria:

- **Proposal Rationale (300-word limit)**: Cite the reason your institution is interested in administering an AAMI program. Highlight any current expertise in this area.
• **Goals and Objectives (500-word limit):** How will the program enhance the enrollment, retention or graduation and degrees conferred of black males?

• **Target Cohort (200-word limit):** Be specific. Cite specific number of students that will be served, and their characteristics. (For example, how will the program serve Black males already enrolled at USG institutions? Will these be new freshmen or graduating seniors at your institution?)

• **Specific/Documented Role of Civic Partner:** How will the initiative involve an organization/entity already engaged in work with African-American males in the institutional service area? *(Official documentation/Letter of Commitment explaining specific partnership role required; three letter limit.)*

• **Program Budget (No more than 2 pages):** What are the specific resources (e.g., staff, equipment, programmatic) needed to implement/administer the proposed program and what are the specific associated costs? Please specify the fund source for each of these budget items (AAMI grant versus matching/institutional funds). NOTE: AAMI funds should be used for programmatic activities, not equipment purchases.

• **Proposed Outcomes (500-word limit):** What measurable barometer movement does the initiative seek to achieve (e.g., increased Black Male enrollment in Fall 2009; increased retention of Black males at your institution; increased graduation and degrees conferred by Black males)?

• **Requested Funding Amount and Institutional Match:** Cite the specific amount of the grant being requested, which must be matched equally by institutional/partner sources.

**DEADLINE FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION:**
Hard copies of all funding proposal documents must be received by 5:00 p.m., Thursday, April 23, 2009. Submissions should be mailed to:

Arlethia Perry-Johnson, Project Director
USG’s African-American Male Initiative
MD 0109, Kennesaw Hall, Bldg.1 Room 5407
1000 Chastain Road
Kennesaw, GA 30144-5591
Phone: (770) 423-6350

**NOTIFICATION OF AWARD RECIPIENTS:**
If selected, institutional officials will be notified of an AAMI Award no later than Monday, May 4, 2009.

**EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS:**
Evalutive reports must be submitted by the presidents of grantee institutions (or their designees), specifying the outcomes of the funded projects. **Deadlines for these reports will be announced when grants are awarded, according to the type of grant being received.** Adherence to interim and final report deadlines will impact future AAMI funding opportunities.
The mandatory reports should address the following points. A template will be provided to grantees institutions for submission of these reports.

- The specific programmatic initiatives to which the funds were directed;
- Specific number of and details regarding the cohort of African-American males impacted by the program/funding;
- How the program met the proposed goals and objectives stated in the funding proposal;
- Update on the actual budget versus the proposed budget, with an explanation of any variations;
- Specific evaluation and measurement strategies used to assess the effectiveness of the project/program;
- What barometer movements (measurable outcomes) were achieved as a result of the program.
- The detailed information/data collected from such assessments of the project’s/program’s outcomes;
- If/how the program's successes are being shared with other University System institutions; and
- Recommendations on how and at what cost the programs might be expanded/replicated to have additional impact on the institution’s and the System’s AAMI goals.

QUESTIONS:
Questions regarding the RFP process may be directed to Arlethia Perry-Johnson via e-mail at aperryjo@kennesaw.edu or telephone (770) 499-3265.