



The University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative

"Creating A More Educated Georgia"



*Recruiting, Retaining and Graduating
Black Male College Students*

AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALE INITIATIVE:

Laser-Focused On Black Males' College Graduation

Colleges and universities in the United States are struggling to enroll and retain African-American male students. However, Georgia's public colleges and universities have dramatically increased their enrollment, retention, and graduation rates thanks to the University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative (AAMI) – an innovative project launched in 2002 by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (USG) – and the results are quite impressive.

When USG officials launched AAMI as a quantitative and qualitative research study in Fall 2002, there were just three programs at USG institutions focused specifically on the educational achievement and attainment of African-American males. Eight-and-a-half years later, 37 such programs now exist on 23 of the USG's 35 campuses, engaging young Black men in college life and focusing their sights on earning a college degree.

Data collected by the University System of Georgia's Office of Research and Policy Analysis reflect significant increases in the enrollment, retention and graduation of African-American males within the USG. In fact, African-American male enrollment has climbed by 67.78 percent over the past eight years – from 17,068 students in fall 2002, to 28,637 in fall 2010 – an increase of 11,569 Black male students. Aided by the infusion of a generous grant from the Lumina Foundation for Education in 2009, the enrollment of African-American males in the University System increased from 23,255 students in fall 2008 to 26,760 in fall 2009 – an unprecedented 15.07 percent increase over the previous year, totaling 3,505 new Black male students. The following year, Black male enrollment in the USG increased by another 7.01 percent, from 26,760 students in fall 2009 to 28,637 in fall 2010, reflecting 1,877 additional Black male students.

As the enrollment swells, the six-year graduation rate (the national benchmark) for USG African-American first-time freshmen is seeing an impressive gain as well. The graduation rate for the cohort of Black male freshmen that entered in fall 1997 – the cohort of students who entered before the 2002 launch of AAMI – was 28.95 percent. The six-year graduation rate for the fall 2004 cohort, which graduated by spring 2010, had risen to 38.98 percent – a 10.03 percent increase in the African-American male graduation rate since AAMI's inception.

Perhaps most importantly, the number of bachelor's degrees conferred annually upon African-American males at USG institutions has jumped by 49.77 percent, from 1,294 Black male students awarded bachelor's degrees in fiscal year 2003, to 1,938 students awarded degrees in fiscal year 2010 – an increase of 644 additional bachelor's degrees being awarded annually to Black male students.


"The goal of AAMI is to increase the recruitment, retention, and graduation of African-American males within the University System through strategic interventions," said Arlethia Perry-Johnson, AAMI's founding project director. "Black men are quite capable of academic achievement, but they need direction regarding the road map to college, which many perceive as common knowledge. For many Black males, the road map often is not clear; nor is it without obstacles. So we focus our efforts on removing the obstacles and providing essential resources – with many devoted USG faculty, staff and administrators working diligently and tirelessly to enhance educational outcomes for these young men."

Issues of inclusion

The impetus for AAMI was the significant gender gap that existed among African-American students enrolled in University System of Georgia institutions. According to fall 2002 USG enrollment data, African-American women accounted for 68 percent of the USG's black enrollment – 35,873 black females compared to 17,068 black males. So Board of Regents' officials raised several pertinent questions that led to the landmark 2002 study:

- *Were high-school-aged black males presented with equal opportunities for higher education?*
- *Were their educational experiences unique at certain stages of the secondary or post-secondary ladder?*
- *What were the barriers to African-American male enrollment and retention in Georgia's public colleges and universities?*

The Board of Regents decided to tackle those questions, which enabled Perry-Johnson, then serving as an associate vice chancellor at the regents' office, to assemble a 52-member task force comprised of academics, educators, civic and business leaders to identify the barriers to college attendance for African-American males.



“When the USG’s enrollment data was analyzed, there was a disproportionate African-American female-to-male ratio of nearly 2-to-1,” Perry-Johnson stated. “Being educators, we wanted first to understand why that was occurring. So we launched this initiative with a comprehensive quantitative and qualitative research study, and then moved quickly to implement programs that leveraged what we learned.”

The research suggested that many college-aged African-American males felt alienated from mainstream campus life. Most colleges and universities failed to engage black male students in educationally enriching experiences inside and outside of the classroom. There was no sense of inclusion, of being able to talk to staff and peers who could relate to their unique experiences, so they dropped out.

The USG task force’s report, submitted in May 2003, prompted the Board of Regents to authorize funding for the African-American Male Initiative. From 2003 through 2008, the board invested significantly in pilot programs serving black male middle school, high school and college students throughout Georgia. In addition, many USG institutions implemented self-funded efforts in support of AAMI’s goals.

In July 2006, the Indiana-based Lumina Foundation for Education's McCabe Fund awarded a two-year, \$100,000 grant to AAMI, which was used to support programs at three USG institutions. That funding also enabled AAMI to more strongly partner with the USG's Office of Strategic Research and Policy Analysis, dedicating a research assistant to work directly with that office on the program's data collection efforts. In October 2006, AAMI moved its home from the Board of Regents' offices in Atlanta to the campus of Kennesaw State University, with strong support from KSU President Dr. Daniel S. Papp, who also was highly involved in AAMI's initial implementation during his tenure as a senior vice chancellor at the Board of Regents. The program now is housed in the office of KSU's Vice President of External Affairs, the role Perry-Johnson now holds.

In 2009, when the Lumina Foundation awarded its second grant to AAMI, the funding was for \$500,000 over two years. That generous grant has enabled AAMI to significantly expand its programming and reporting capabilities, to launch an exciting new retention initiative in partnership with the Student African-American Brotherhood (SAAB), and to document impressive outcomes. That year, AAMI also further honed its efforts to focus specifically on undergraduate efforts, and that focus is yielding results.

Collaborations and Partnerships

AAMI thrives on building partnerships, both with the USG campuses and with external organizations. One of the program's most recent and exciting collaborations is a partnership between AAMI and the Student African-American Brotherhood (SAAB), a national organization devoted to increasing the number of African-American and Latino males that graduate from college by setting examples of excellence in academics and leadership. With a portion of its Lumina funding, AAMI launched SAAB chapters at eight USG institutions to enhance participation by African-American and Latino males in campus life and leadership activities. AAMI officials worked with SAAB officials to identify participating campuses through a data analysis process that benchmarked the retention and graduation rates of Black males at all USG institutions relative to the national benchmark for similar types of institutions with similar admissions profiles. The initiative is a huge success with the participating campuses and with the young men that it serves to engage, some of whom have recently attended SAAB's national convention with support from AAMI.



"The Student African-American Brotherhood (SAAB) was established specifically to assist male students in striving for academic excellence and to assist them in making a commitment to plan and implement programs that benefit their communities," said SAAB founder Tyrone Bledsoe, a University of Georgia doctoral alumnus. "We encourage our members to excel academically, socially, culturally and professionally, and to be positive examples for each other through a strong commitment to academic achievement brotherhood, and community service."

Bledsoe founded SAAB in 1990 at Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus, Ga., where as associate vice president of student affairs, he noticed that African-American males had difficulty finding a niche on campus. "These guys were searching for acceptance and validation," Bledsoe said. "They needed a culture of peers to help them shape their values. They needed a sense of family. The first thing that came to my mind was the family structure of street gangs, which give their members a sense of belonging and inclusion. SAAB was structured along the lines of a gang, without all the bad stuff."



Sharing Best Practices and Outcomes

In December 2007, AAMI program officials convened the inaugural AAMI Best Practices Conference at Kennesaw State University, to share the outcomes, challenges and successful strategies that enhance educational results for Georgia's African-American male students. The program featured an awards banquet, nationally recognized speakers in the field of Black male educational attainment, and included 11 specialized workshop sessions tailored to the needs of the adult and youth conferees. Networking breaks provided additional opportunities for conference attendees to meet and exchange information with their USG colleagues. The success of the inaugural conference prompted AAMI campus officials to rally for similar future gatherings.

As a result, AAMI convened its second Best Practices Conference in April 2011 at Macon State College. The two-day gathering attracted nearly 300 African-American male students, AAMI program directors, mentors and officials representing 22 USG institutions. The conference again featured an awards banquet, plenary sessions and workshops that provided participants opportunities to share experiences and concerns, learn new skills, and hear perspectives on a range of issues and topics related to black males' academic

success. Student participants were exposed to outstanding African-American male motivational speakers and role models who emphasized the value of academic achievement in their careers and personal lives. Noted actor, author and philanthropist Hill Harper facilitated a 90-minute "Open Forum for Black Males," during which he challenged the attendees to push themselves to their highest possible levels of performance (**see photo, at left**). An interactive workshop provided students beneficial strategies for building career paths by taking advantage of student leadership, internship and graduate school opportunities. Additional workshops addressed other critical issues for African-American male students, including sessions on enhancing their self-image, interpersonal and social skills, and also balancing athletics and academics. AAMI program officials also engaged in insightful discussions about creating and sustaining successful campus programs.

"The University System of Georgia has done pioneering work in identifying and addressing the educational challenges faced by black males, and our work is frequently benchmarked," Perry-Johnson said. "We convene these conferences to share the vital information we have learned with our USG colleagues and with others engaged in this important work. Our goal is to demonstrate what works, so that others may replicate, expand and – most importantly – fund these important programs."

A National Model

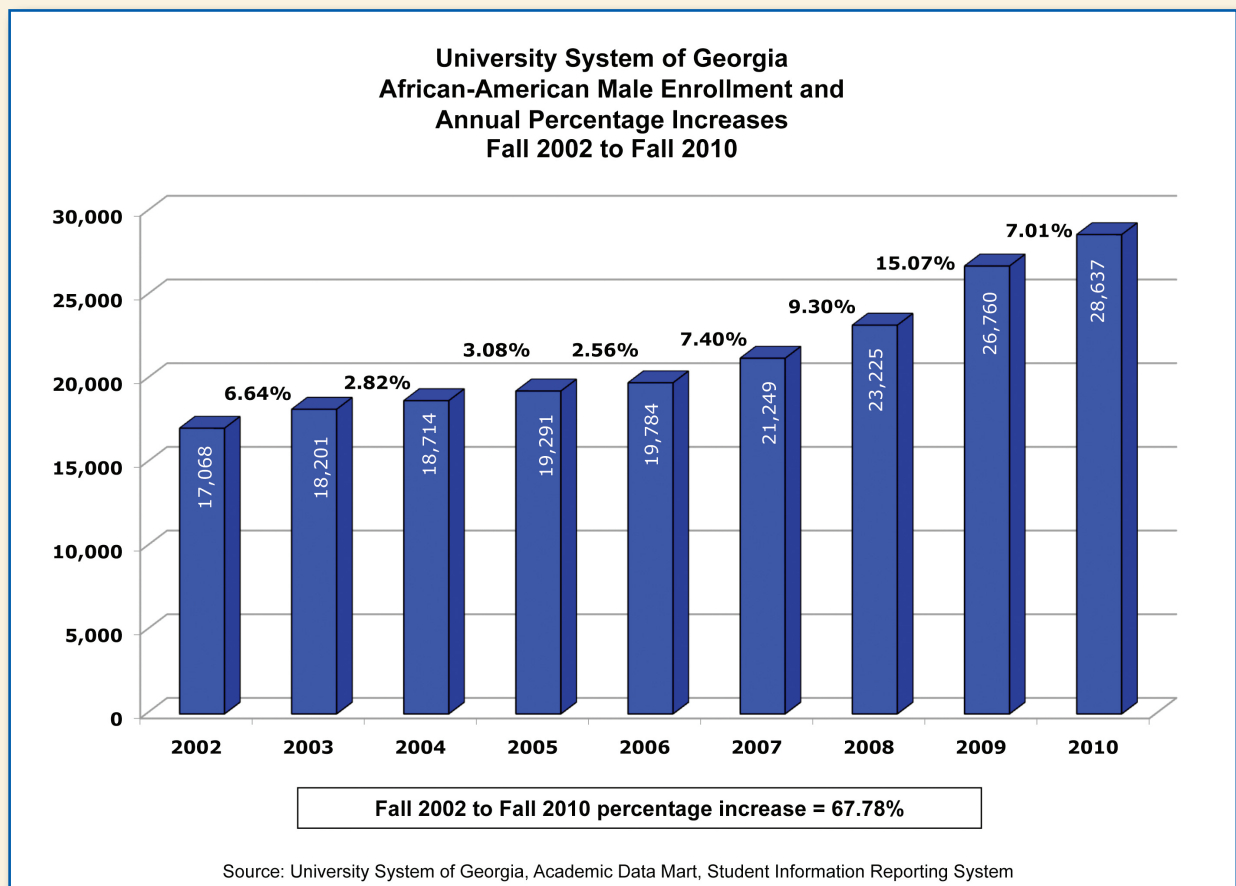
AAMI has garnered significant national attention. Program officials have responded to scores of benchmarking and research requests, hosted visits from numerous higher education and organizational entities, made presentations at national conferences, and been featured in numerous state and national media outlets. The program positions the University System of Georgia's work in improving educational outcomes for Black males as a national model and as a potential demonstration project.

While AAMI's targeted recruitment and retention programs have produced heartening results, the USG's statewide initiative must continue tackling the dearth of Black male college graduates and their disproportionate status relative to their male and female peers. The educational plight of African-American males can be reversed with the commitment of appropriate resources. Doing so has become an economic imperative for our nation.

Outcomes:

The University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (USG) launched the African-American Male Initiative (AAMI) in 2002 after officials uncovered stark data that revealed the disproportionate number of black women versus black men enrolled in the USG — 35,873 black females compared to 17,068 black males — a more than 2:1 ratio. AAMI efforts aimed at expanding the pipeline of young black males qualified for college admission, and enhancing their college matriculation and graduation, have achieved successful performance outcomes.



Enrollment

The University System of Georgia has made tremendous strides with the enrollment of African-American males over the last eight years since AAMI's inception. Black male enrollment has increased by 67.78 percent, from 17,068 students in fall 2002 to 28,637 students in fall 2010 — an addition of 11,569 black male students.

Among the USG's first-time, full-time freshmen population, African-American male enrollment grew at more than twice that percentage rate — recording a whopping 121.66 percent increase during this same period. Black male first-time, full-time freshmen jumped from 2,811 in Fall 2002 to 6,231 in Fall 2010.

This performance strongly outpaced both white female and white male enrollment increases within the University System. The USG's white male first-time, full-time freshmen enrollment increased 17.17 percent, from 10,864 students in 2002 to 12,729 students in 2010; while white female first-time, full-time freshmen enrollment increased 17.22 percent, from 12,547 students in 2002 to 14,707 students in 2010.

Outcomes:

The University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative

Retention

Retention data in the University System of Georgia is reported in two ways: "Institution-specific" retention, capturing students retained at the same USG institution in which they initially enrolled as freshmen; and "System-wide" retention, capturing students retained in their second year at any of the USG's 35 institutions.

As Black male enrollment in the USG has successively increased over the past eight years, retention rates have shown annual improvements as well. However, in the past couple of years when enrollment increases of African-American males have ranged from 7 to 15 percent, small drops have been recorded in their overall retention rates.

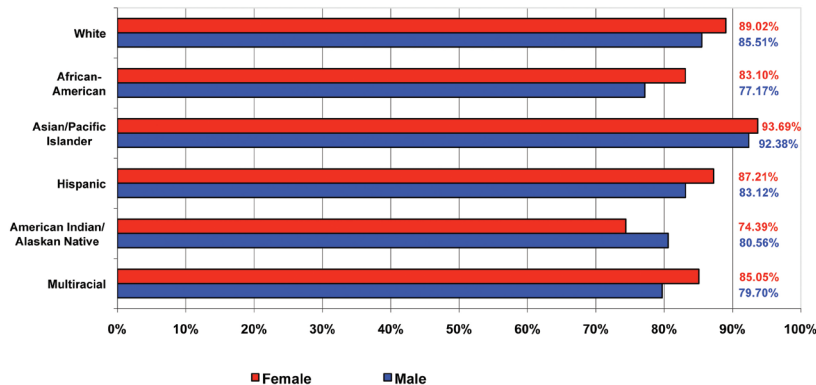
The System-wide retention rate for first-time, full-time bachelor's degree-seeking Black male freshmen that entered the University System in fall 2002 was 79.43 percent (total number: 1,740). By fall 2009, the number of black male first-time, full-time freshmen enrolled in the USG had nearly doubled to 3,018, and their retention rate dropped slightly to 77.17 percent. In spite of this statistical change, a significantly larger group of Black male students are now matriculating and being retained in the USG.

In comparison, the System-wide retention rate for first-time, full-time bachelor's degree-seeking Black female freshmen that entered the USG in the fall 2002 was 85.12 percent (total number: 2,842). Correspondingly, the fall 2009 retention rate for Black female freshmen dropped slightly to 83.10 percent — even as their numbers also swelled to 4,717.

Meanwhile, the retention rate for all students that entered the USG in the fall 2002 was 85.59 percent (total number: 22,830). The System-wide retention rate for the fall 2009 cohort of all first-time, full-time bachelor's degree-seeking freshmen also recorded a minor dip, to 85.28 percent (total number: 31,091).

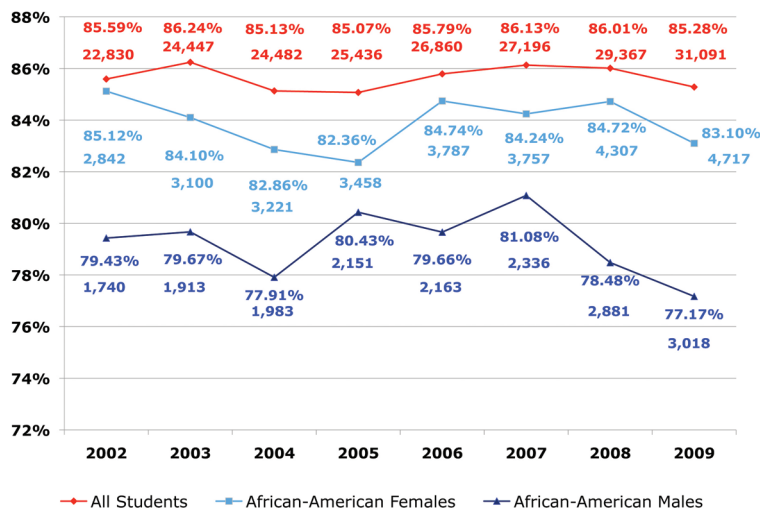
This data reflects the continuing challenge of closing the retention-rate performance gap for USG African-American males relative to their peers — an area of strong emphasis for the USG's AAMI program.

University System of Georgia
System-wide First-time, Full-time Freshmen
One-Year Retention Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Gender
Fall 2009



Source: University System of Georgia, Academic Data Mart, Student Information Reporting System

University System of Georgia
First-time, Full-time Freshmen (System-wide) One-Year Retention Rates
Fall 2002 to Fall 2009 Cohort
All Students and African-American Males and Females



Source: University System of Georgia, Academic Data Mart, Student Information Reporting System

Outcomes:

The University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative

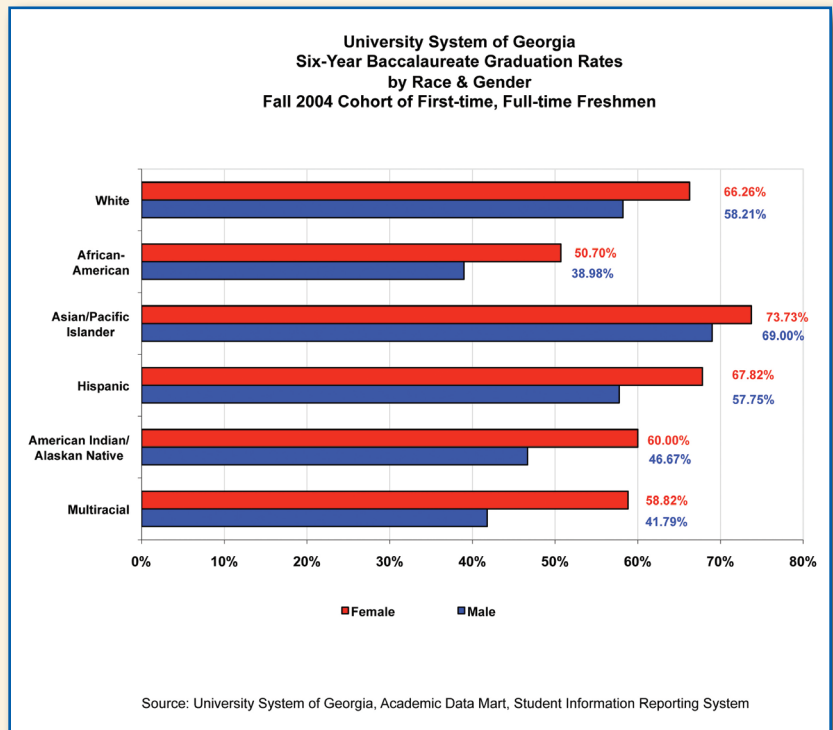
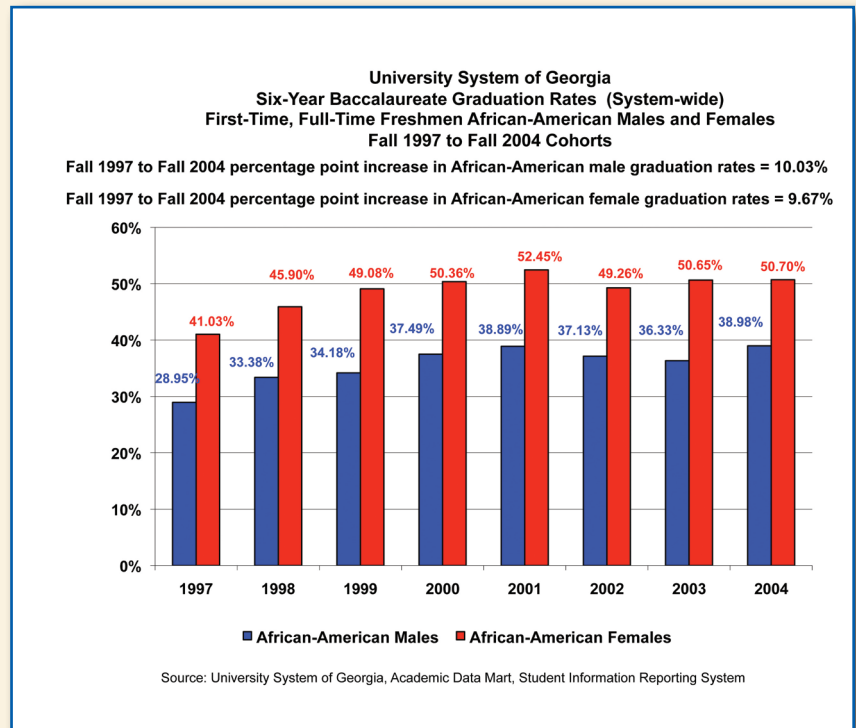
Graduation

The University System of Georgia uses the national benchmark of six years to report graduation rates for baccalaureate degrees. Considerable strides have been made within the USG with regard to black male graduation rates over the past seven years.

AAMI's benchmark cohort for measurement of graduation rates for first-time, full-time African-American male freshmen is the cohort that entered in fall 1997, and graduated no later than fiscal year 2003. That cohort's graduation rate was 28.95 percent.

The graduation rates have fluctuated for each new incoming cohort over the past several years, moving to 33.38 percent for the 1998 and 34.18 percent for the 1999 cohorts; then to 37.49 percent for the 2000 cohort; and ultimately, to 38.89 percent for the 2001 cohort. The graduation rate for African-American male freshmen that entered in fall 2002 then declined slightly to 37.13 percent, and dropped again to 36.33 percent for the 2003 cohort — though the declines were balanced against burgeoning enrollment. The graduation rate is now back on the upswing, rising to 38.98 percent for the 2004 cohort (which graduated no later than Spring 2010), — reflecting a 10.03 percentage point increase over the benchmark cohort.

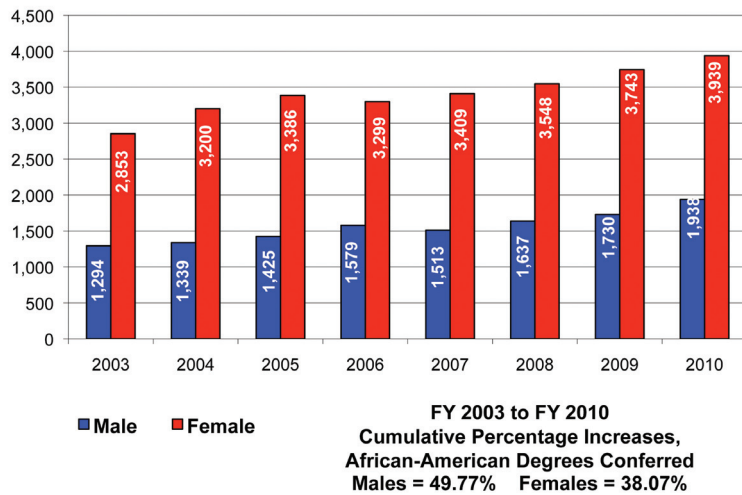
The graduation rates of first-time, full-time African-American female freshmen that entered in fall 1997 was 41.03 percent. As was the case with Black males, that rate increased for each new incoming cohort for several years, moving to 45.90 percent for the 1998 and 49.08 percent for the 1999 cohorts; then to 50.36 percent for the 2000 cohort; and ultimately, to 52.45 percent for the 2001 cohort. The graduation rate for the fall 2002 cohort then dropped slightly to 49.26 percent. It quickly bounced back, however, and increased to 50.65 percent for the 2003 cohort, and rose again to 50.70 percent for the 2004 cohort — ultimately reflecting a 9.67 percentage point increase during the comparable period. Much more work remains on this critical front, both to meet the USG average and to close the performance gap of Black males against their female peers, as the comparative charts here depict.



Outcomes:

The University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative

**University System of Georgia Bachelor's Degrees Conferred
African-American Males and Females
FY 2003 to FY 2010**



Source: University System of Georgia, Academic Data Mart, Student Information Reporting System

Degrees Conferred

The University System of Georgia is strongly committed to increasing the number of degrees conferred upon African-American males — and this performance indicator is showing impressive outcomes.

The number of bachelor's degrees conferred annually upon African-American males by USG institutions has increased by 49.77 percent, from 1,294 students awarded bachelor's degrees in fiscal year 2003, to 1,938 students awarded bachelor's degrees in fiscal year 2010 — an increase of 644 additional bachelor's degrees being awarded annually to Black male students.

Comparatively, the number of degrees being conferred annually by USG institutions upon African-American females has increased by 38.07 percent — moving from 2,853 degrees conferred in fiscal year 2003 to 3,939 degrees conferred in fiscal year 2010.

The Challenge

When the data is disaggregated — be it enrollment, persistence, or completion statistics — African-American males nationally rank at the bottom relative to their peers in terms of these critical performance indicators.

University System of Georgia officials, however, are not content to accept that fact as a perpetual reality. AAMI's mission is to significantly increase the graduation rates of African-American males within the USG, which will contribute to both our state's and our nation's educational attainment levels.

The good news is that the University System of Georgia's targeted initiatives are yielding dividends, and our enrollment, retention and graduation rates all are showing significant improvement. Still, we recognize there is much more work to be done. With the continued commitment of AAMI program officials, our civic partners and our funding supporters, we will remain laser-focussed on enhancing the educational attainment of African-American males.



The University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative Programs

Asterisk(*) = AAMI-SAAB Chapter Site

SAAB: Student African-American Brotherhood

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College*

The Leaders Evolving and Developing Community (L.E.A.D.), Living-Learning Community (LLC)

The L.E.A.D. program targets first-semester African-American males with two or more learning support requirements. All eligible participating students are encouraged to join the Student African-American Brotherhood (SAAB) chapter at ABAC to provide additional cultural and academic support.

Academic Level Served:

Incoming College Freshmen

ABAC SAAB

Abraham Baldwin's SAAB chapter focuses on the retention and graduation of African-American males through social activities, service-learning opportunities and support. Weekly meetings are student-led and focus on encouraging brotherhood and community involvement, as well as academic support.

Academic Level Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

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Albany State University

Center for African-American Males (C.A.A.M.)

The Center for the African-American Male (C.A.A.M.) at Albany State University is designed to assist incoming male students in making the transition from high school to college a success. The center is dedicated to the mission of recruiting, enrolling, retaining and graduating male college students.

Academic Level Served:

Incoming College Freshmen

Program Contact:

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Albany State University
504 College Drive
Albany, GA 31705
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Atlanta Metropolitan College*

Atlanta Metropolitan College (AMC) African-American Male Initiative (AAMI)

The goal of AMC's AAMI program is to impact the enrollment, retention and graduation rates of African-American males through academic and professional development services, activities and resources, as well as to enhance the success of African-American males accessing the University System of Georgia through Atlanta Metropolitan College.

Academic Level Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

Brother 2 Brother (B2B)

Atlanta Metropolitan's B2B chapter, focuses on the retention and graduation of African-American and Latino males through social activities, service-learning opportunities and support. Weekly meetings are student-led and focus on encouraging brotherhood and community involvement, as well as academic support.



Academic Level Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

Program Contacts:

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Augusta State University*

Augusta State African-American Male Initiative (AAMI)

The Augusta State University (ASU) AAMI program facilitates the successful transition of first-time, full-time traditional African-American males at ASU. This is achieved by providing a summer bridge program that includes six credit-hours of college course work, math and writing workshops, thematic topics, relevant educational and motivational events, and speakers/role models from the community.

Academic Level Served:

Incoming College Freshmen

Augusta State SAAB

Augusta State's SAAB chapter focuses on the retention and graduation of African-American males through social activities, service-learning opportunities and support. Weekly meetings are student-led and focus on encouraging brotherhood and community involvement, as well as academic support.

Academic Level Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

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The University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative Programs

Asterisk(*) = AAMI-SAAB Chapter Site

SAAB: Student African-American Brotherhood

Clayton State University*

Clayton State University African-American Male Initiative

Clayton State University aspires to enhance the retention of African-American males through strategic intervention at the freshman level. Proactive measures will be taken to monitor academic performance. Program participants will also gain valuable academic and social development skills through a learning community course, civic engagement activities (such as speaking to high-school students and parents) and monthly activities designed to increase retention of students living on campus.

Academic Level Served:

Incoming College Freshmen

Clayton State SAAB

Clayton State's SAAB chapter focuses on the retention and graduation of African-American males through social activities, service-learning opportunities and support. Weekly meetings are student-led and focus on encouraging brotherhood and community involvement, as well as academic support.

Academic Level Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

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College of Coastal Georgia

The Torchbearer's Club

The mission of the Torchbearer's Club is to provide African-American males the academic, social and cultural skills needed to complete college via an intense mentoring experience involving members of the college and the community.

Academic Level Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

Summer Bridge & Go Program

This program is designed to recruit college-bound African-American males to the College of Coastal Georgia. It includes eight weeks of advanced instruction in math, reading and writing to prepare them for their first-semester classes, as well as extracurricular summer activities to establish initial relationships with campus mentors who will support them throughout their first year. Students recruited for this program are eligible to be inducted into the Torchbearers and will complete their first-and second-year courses in a learning community.

Academic Level Served:

Incoming College Freshmen

Program Contacts:

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Chair, Dept. of Education and Teacher Preparation
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Columbus State University

Projecting Hope

Projecting Hope targets African-American males from rural counties in Georgia between the ages of 17 and 24. The goals of the program are to work with these students beyond the pre-entry stage, help them facilitate the campus environment, and work toward their retention at Columbus State University.

Academic Level Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

Program Contact:

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Fort Valley State University

Black Men With Initiative (B.M.W.I.)

Fort Valley State University, understanding that not all black men are the same, has developed a comprehensive academic/ leadership program that works with African-American males from their freshmen to senior years in college. The overall goal of the program is to create Renaissance men.

Academic Level Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

Center for African-American Males (C.A.A.M.)

The Center for African-American Males is an independent non profit corporation whose mission is to address the challenges faced by African-American men in the academic by focusing on three main areas: research, modeling and training, and programming.

Academic Level Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

Program Contacts:

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The University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative Programs

Asterisk(*) = AAMI-SAAB Chapter Site

SAAB: Student African-American Brotherhood



Gainesville State College

Academic Mentoring Program

The Academic Mentoring Program targets incoming freshmen who are academically at risk as defined by their placement in two or more learning-support courses. Each cohort's students are assigned a faculty/staff mentor; participate in a leadership development series and use journaling as a reflection tool.

Academic Level Served:

Incoming College Freshmen

Program Contact:

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Georgia College & State University

Mentoring African-Americans for Leadership, Education and Connection (MALE-Connection)

MALE-Connection increases the retention and graduation rates of GCSU African-American males. The program connects students to the college, the community and to other University System of Georgia African-American students, improving participants' academic and communication skills and providing opportunities to be role models to incoming college and high-school African-American males.

Academic Level Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

Program Contact:

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Georgia Highlands College*

Georgia Highlands African-American and Minority Male Excellence (GHAME)

Georgia Highlands African-American Male Excellence (GHAME) program aims to enhance the recruitment, retention and graduation of Black males on several fronts. The program offers a first-year experience for African-American male students and also works with African-American male sophomores to facilitate graduation and transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

Academic Level Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

Brother 2 Brother (B2B)

Georgia Highland's B2B program focuses on the retention and graduation of African-American and Latino males through social activities, service-learning opportunities and support. Weekly meetings are student-led and focus on encouraging brotherhood and community involvement, as well as academic support.

Academic Level Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

Program Contact:

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Georgia Institute of Technology

Providing Resources to Ignite Male Excellence (GT PRIME)

GT PRIME focuses on the retention of African-American males at Georgia Tech by emphasizing academic excellence and leadership. The initiative provides participants with resources, motivation and leadership training through a customized summer "Challenge" program and community-service requirement; and via academic-year workshops, speaker series, tutoring and mentoring.

Academic Level Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

Program Contact:

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Georgia Perimeter College

The Leadership Academy

Georgia Perimeter's Leadership Academy provides students with academic development, academic enrichment, and community involvement opportunities through three program components; tutoring services, a leadership and service series and a community-service project.

Academic Level Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

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The University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative Programs

Asterisk(*) = AAMI-SAAB Chapter Site

SAAB: Student African-American Brotherhood

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(678) 891-3737

Georgia Southern University

Pathways to Success

Pathways to Success is a program for African-American male freshmen that provides positive mentoring and opportunities that promote campus engagement and academic success. Students are paired with peer mentors and have access to student organizations, leadership workshops and classes that address the needs of African-American men.

Academic Level Served:

Incoming College Freshmen

Georgia Southern SAAB

Georgia Southern's SAAB chapter focuses on the retention and graduation of African-American males through social activities, service-learning opportunities and support. Weekly meetings are student-led and focus on encouraging brotherhood and community involvement, as well as academic support.

Academic Level Served:

Incoming College Freshmen

Program Contact:

Dr. Georj L. Lewis
Dean of Students
Georgia Southern University
P.O. Box 8070
Statesboro, GA 30460
glewis@georgiasouthern.edu
(912) 478-3326

Georgia Southwestern State University

Georgia Southwestern African-American Male Initiative (AAMI)

The Georgia Southwestern AAMI Program is geared toward academic supplementary instruction, mentoring, social awareness and social responsibility. The main goal is to provide a successful program that will increase the enrollment of African-American males in higher education.

Academic Level Served:

Incoming College Freshmen

Program Contact:

Ervin D. Anderson
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Georgia Southwestern University
800 Georgia Southwestern State
University Drive
Americus, GA 31709-4693
eda@canes.gsw.edu
(229) 931-2200

Georgia State University

African-American Male Initiative at Georgia State University (AAMI)

The Office of African-American Student Services and Programs implements initiatives that provide African-American male undergraduates resources for their studies, interpersonal relationships, career focus and self-identity via group discussions, team building and lectures. Students are encouraged to enhance their leadership abilities by participating on the executive boards of Georgia State's many student organizations.

Academic Levels Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

Brothers Keepers

Brothers Keepers is a peer-group retention initiative created to build an African-American Male brotherhood at Georgia State University. The organization focuses on providing current participants with support systems that will foster their academic and social success, while maintaining a campus organization that will be relevant for future African-American male students.

Academic Levels Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

Tighter Grip

Tighter Grip provides resources to enhance its members' academic studies, interpersonal relationships, career focus and self-identity via group discussions, team building and lectures. It also fosters brotherhood and business connections across campus organizations, the student body, and the Atlanta community. The organization also offers a mentoring program, which provides a certification, and enables members to effectively engage, encourage, and challenge middle- and high-school students.

Academic Levels Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

Program Contacts:

Dr. Doris A. Derby,
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Kyle Kokoram
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The University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative Programs

Asterisk(*) = AAMI-SAAB Chapter Site

SAAB: Student African-American Brotherhood

Gordon College*

Gordon College SAAB

Gordon College's SAAB chapter focuses on improving the retention, progression and graduation rates of African-American and Latino male students by providing academic, personal, social and cultural development. Currently, the chapter has 50 members of which more than half are freshmen.

Academic Level Served:

Incoming College Freshmen

Program Contact:

Michelle Perry-Stewart
MAP Coordinator
Gordon College
419 College Drive
Barnesville, GA 30204
mperry-stewart@gdn.edu
(678) 359-5096

Kennesaw State University

Kennesaw State University African-American Male Initiative (AAMI)

The goal of KSU's AAMI program is to enhance the recruitment, retention and graduation of African-American males entering as first-time, full-time students. Participants include African-American males in the KSU AAMI Learning Community, as well as members of KSU Distinguished Black Gentlemen student organization.

Academic Level Served:

Incoming College Freshmen

Program Contact:

Nicole Phillips
Assistant Director,
Minority Student Retention Services
Kennesaw State University
1000 Chastain Road
Kennesaw, GA 30144-5591
nphill10@kennesaw.edu
(770) 423-6443

Macon State College*

Macon State SAAB

Macon State's SAAB chapter focuses on the recruitment, retention and graduation of African-American and Latino male students. The goals of the chapter are to identify factors influencing retention, provide opportunities for campus



engagement, train peer mentors, provide professional development and celebrate the achievements of African-American and Latino males at Macon State.

Academic Levels Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

Program Contact:

Yolanda D. Petty
Director,
Trio Student Support Services Program,
Coordinator of Minority Advising Program
and SAAB Director
Macon State College
100 College Station Drive
Macon, GA 31206
yolanda.petty@maconstate.edu
(478) 471-5356

Middle Georgia College

Career Explorations and Vistas of Opportunity Project

Middle Georgia College's Career Explorations and Vistas of Opportunity project employs career-focused activities to enhance African-American males' classroom learning and personal

enrichment. Students participate in learning communities, internships, career planning, and job placement activities. The program also hosts motivational presentations, and provides community mentors, tutoring and other academic support.

Academic Levels Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

Global Perspectives and New Directions Project

The Global Perspectives and New Directions Project is focused on enhancing the enrollment, retention and graduation of African-American males at Middle Georgia College through globally focused group and interactive, computer-aided activities. The program includes mentoring and tutoring activities, cultural and motivational speaker series, and the utilization of Global Learning labs on the Cochran, Eastman and Dublin campuses.

Academic Levels Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

The University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative Programs

Asterisk(*) = AAMI-SAAB Chapter Site

SAAB: Student African-American Brotherhood

Program Contact:

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(478) 934-3376

South Georgia College*

South Georgia College SAAB

South Georgia College's SAAB chapter focuses on the retention and graduation of African-American and Latino males through social activities, service-learning opportunities and support. Weekly meetings are student-led and focus on encouraging brotherhood and community involvement, as well as academic support.

Academic Levels Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

Program Contact:

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Southern Polytechnic State University

Project MENtorship

Progressive MENtorship promotes the retention and graduation of SPSU's African-American males. Students are matched with Peach State Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (PSLSAMP) mentors, who help them navigate the first-year experience and develop college success plans. AAMI participants may then become PSLSAMP scholars and mentors to future students.

Academic Level Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

Program Contact:

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Southern Polytechnic State University
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Marietta, GA 30060-2896
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University Of West Georgia

Black Men With Initiative (B.M.W.I.)

B.M.W.I. was instituted in 2002 to develop culturally aware, academically strong, community-minded and spiritually grounded African-American male leaders.

Academic Level Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

Black Men Encouraging Success Today (B.E.S.T.)

B.E.S.T. was created for a purpose similar to B.M.W.I.: to foster a sense of belonging among African-American males dedicated to being successful at UWG and beyond.

Academic Level Served:

All Undergraduate Levels

AAMI Freshmen Enhancement Program

This program seeks to enhance the retention and graduation of black males by enrolling 25 incoming freshmen in a three-week pre-fall semester AAMI Freshmen Enhancement Program. The objectives of the program are to provide students with an experience of college course work and information to improve study skills.

Academic Level Served:

Incoming College Freshmen

AAMI Learning Community

UWG's program consists of an invitation to an orientation for all entering African-American males, ongoing support of freshmen via study sessions, referral of participants to other campus resources, a learning community for 24 freshmen, and study sessions for BMWI members, as well as seminars and workshops throughout the year.

Academic Level Served:

Incoming College Freshmen

Program Contact:

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The University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative

"Creating A More Educated Georgia"



"Creating a More Educated Georgia"
www.usg.edu/aami

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The University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative is headquartered at Kennesaw State University.



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