

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



Increasing education for all

KSU is the new home to the University System of Georgia's efforts to improve the education of young African-American men.

By Jennifer Hafer

A University System of Georgia (USG) initiative aimed at increasing the number of African-American males enrolled in the state's colleges and universities has a new home at Kennesaw State University.

The African-American Male Initiative (AAMI), formerly based at the Atlanta offices of the Board of Regents, has followed the project's two top administrators to Kennesaw State.

Daniel S. Papp, president of Kennesaw State, and Arlethia Perry-Johnson, KSU special assistant to the president for external affairs and AAMI's project director, have overseen the project since its inception.

"With the University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative now calling Kennesaw State University its home, KSU looks forward to taking a national leadership role in helping to redress the issue of too few African-American males pursuing higher education," Papp said.

Perry-Johnson said the AAMI is a good fit at KSU because it reflects one of the administration's key goals.

"Dr. Papp has articulated a strong commitment to diversity as an integral element of the university's mission, and the goals of AAMI are symbiotic with the university's diversity goals," she said.

Since the AAMI was launched six years ago, the enrollment of black males in the University System has increased by almost 24.5 percent, from 17,068 students in fall 2002 to 21,249 in fall 2007.

"The goal of the program is to increase the recruitment, retention and graduation of young black men within the USG through strategic intervention at both the K-12 and higher education levels,"

Perry-Johnson said. "Many devoted persons have worked diligently under AAMI's auspices to enhance educational outcomes for these young men. Black men are quite capable of academic achievement.

But what is needed is vital direction regarding the road map to college, which many perceive as a given. For that cohort of society, the road map is not a given."

The ramifications of African-American males failing to get a college education go far beyond limiting their individual potential, according to Papp.

"For many reasons, significant numbers of African-American men are not receiving the education they need to succeed and are in danger of being unable to fulfill their potential," Papp stated. "This hurts them as individuals by limiting their options and undermines the social and economic viability of Georgia and the country."

In one of its first major activities at the university, the AAMI will host a statewide "Best Practices" conference at KSU November 30 and December 1, to showcase successful and effective strategies that have been used at the state and national levels to accomplish the program's goals.

The genesis of the AAMI program can be traced to a USG benchmarking initiative undertaken in 2001. The system-wide review examined every aspect of the University System's performance, from fiscal operations to enrollment data.

"When the enrollment data was scrutinized further, it became clear there were two under-represented groups in the University System: non-traditional students and black males," Perry-Johnson said. "There was a disproportionate African-American female-to-male enrollment ratio of nearly 2 to 1."

According to fall 2002 enrollment data, African-American women comprised 68 percent of the USG's black enrollment – 35,873 black females compared to 17,068 black males. The question then became: What are the barriers to African-American male enrollment and retention in Georgia's then 34 public colleges and universities?

To answer that question, Perry-Johnson formed a 52-member task force comprised of state and national higher education and K-12 leaders. She also coordinated the collection of extensive qualitative research conducted with the target audience of black males, and quantitative telephone surveys conducted with more than 700 18-to-25-year-old black males and key influencers of their educational choices.

Key recommendations resulting from the research study included the need for: tracking more African-American males into the K-12 college-preparatory curriculum; improved cultural sensitivity training for teachers and guidance counselors; and increasing the number of high-quality teachers in hard-to-staff schools where many African-American students attend, among many other findings.

"Black males cannot be competitive in today's global society if they are educationally deficient," Perry-Johnson said. "It is incumbent upon both the K-12 and higher education systems to leverage their resources to enhance these students' preparedness for such competition."

KSU received a \$30,000 AAMI grant in 2005 to partner with two Cobb County-area high schools and two community organizations. The KSU program, which received the Regents' largest AAMI grant, was designed to improve the college preparedness of students from participating schools and the retention of the university's African-American male students. The matching grant also funded a learning community for African-American males and helped implement a "Summer Bridge" preparatory program.

"The challenge we are addressing via AAMI is an issue of economic viability for our state and the nation," Perry-Johnson stated.

"For America to have the greatest opportunity for economic success, we need to prepare all of our students and our citizens to be competitive in the global marketplace," she continued. "Presently, too many African-American males are falling through the cracks of our educational system, and it continues to be a serious issue with long-lasting ramifications."

A new advocate for Georgia's African-American men

Betsy Green has been named as assistant project director for the University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative. The first full-time employee dedicated



to the project since its inception in 2002, Greenwill be responsible for managing the day-to-day activities and initiatives of the AAMI. Her position is funded by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

After nearly a decade serving in a key advancement role at Southern Polytechnic State University, Green has spent the last seven years working as a development director at the Atlanta headquarters of Georgia Youth Science & Technology Centers – a private, nonprofit educational organization.

"We tapped Betsy for this position because of her expertise working with K-12 programs and her solid development skills," said Special Assistant to the President for External Affairs Arlethia Perry-Johnson.

Green's first order of business is conducting a census of programs within the USG aimed at preparing more African-American males to attend and graduate from college.

She also is helping to organize a best-practices conference, which is expected to draw about 250 attendees from around the state to the KSU campus.

Green also will oversee a steering committee that will be responsible for establishing AAMI's priorities and providing program oversight and feedback. In addition, AAMI will launch a new marketing initiative, "Million Dollar Player," this fall.

"So many good things already are happening with the program," Green said. "I'm looking forward to doing my part to help reverse the trend of African-American males not graduating from high school and going on to college. I want to help them succeed."

AAMI is Yielding Results

Marking its six-year milestone, the University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative (AAMI) was launched in the summer of 2002 as a research and marketing project aimed at identifying the barriers to college attendance by African-American males within the University System of Georgia (USG). With the assistance of external researchers and a 52-member task force comprised of academics, educators, civic and business leaders from across the state and nation, extensive quantitative research and qualitative analysis was submitted to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia in May 2003. (See report at http://www.usg.edu/aami) As a result of this study, the Board of Regents committed to funding several pilot projects targeting the challenges and recommendations identified in the report.

From 2003 through 2008, the University System of Georgia has invested nearly \$625,000 in AAMI pilot programs that have served black male middle-school, high-school and college students throughout Georgia.

In addition, many institutions within the USG implemented self-funded efforts in support of AAMI's goals.

In July 2002, three known programs in the USG focused on improving educational outcomes for African-American males.

Presently, more than 19 USG institutions are operating 25 different AAMI programs focusing on the K-12 pipeline, college retention

and student life issues.

AAMI is yielding results. Between fall 2002 and 2007,

African-American male enrollment in USG institutions

has increased

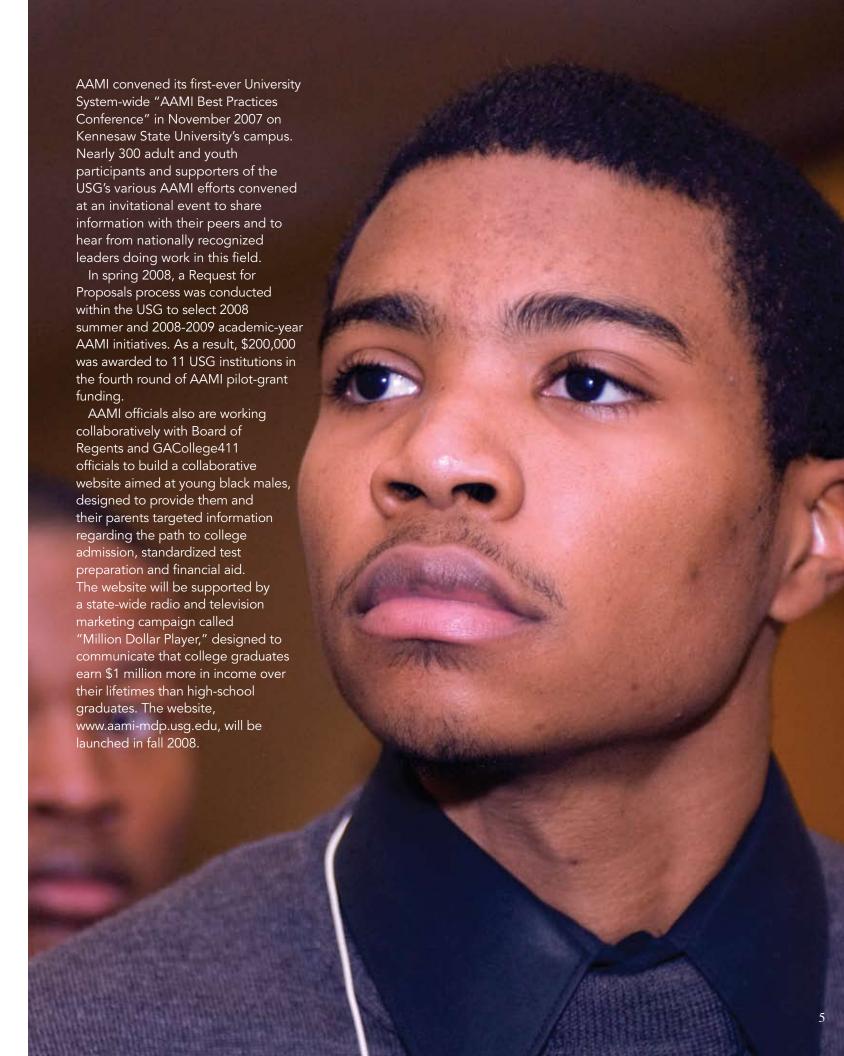
from 17,068 to 21,249 — an increase of 24.5 percent. From fall 2006 to fall 2007 alone, African-American male enrollment increased by 7.4 percent — the largest ever single-year percentage increase — resulting in 1,465 new African-American male students enrolled in USG colleges and universities.

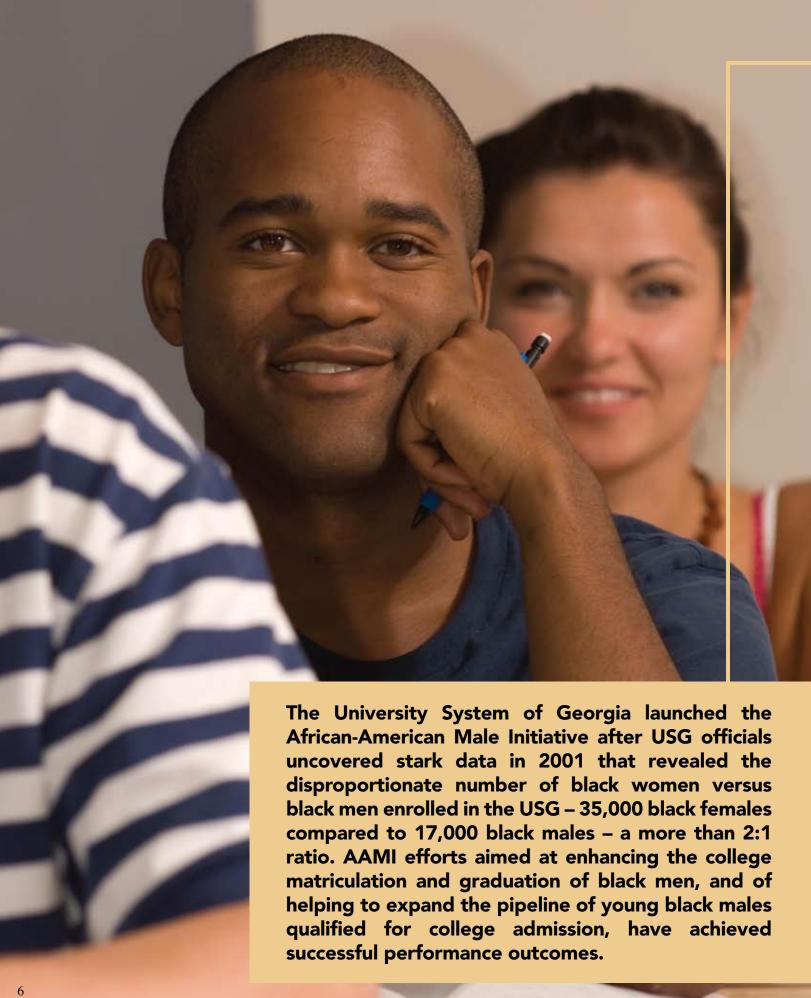
Since the program's inception, the gap also has closed between African-American male and African-American female annual enrollment growth within the USG. In fall 2002, black female enrollment growth increased 9.5 percent over the previous fall, compared to an enrollment growth of 7.2 percent for black males for the period. By fall 2004, the black female enrollment growth was 2.8 percent, nearly on par with the black male percentage increase of 2.9 for black males. In fall 2005, black male enrollment growth of 3.1 percent nearly tripled that of the black female enrollment increase of 1.4 percent. That closing of the gap continued in fall 2007, when the black female increase was 4.4 percent compared to the black male increase of 7.4 percent — significantly reversing the negative trend.

The USG's AAMI efforts also have garnered significant attention, including inquiries from other academic entities, presentations at national conferences, as well as statewide and national media coverage. This attention positions the University System of Georgia's work in improving educational outcomes for black males as a national model.

In July 2006, AAMI was awarded a two-year, \$100,000 grant from the Lumina Foundation for Education's McCabe Fund. Those funds supported AAMI programs at three USG institutions and a graduate student in the University System of Georgia's Office of Strategic Research and Policy Analysis.

In August 2007, AAMI hired its first full-time employee, Ms. Betsy Green. She serves as assistant project director, supporting Arlethia Perry-Johnson, who continues to serve as project director.



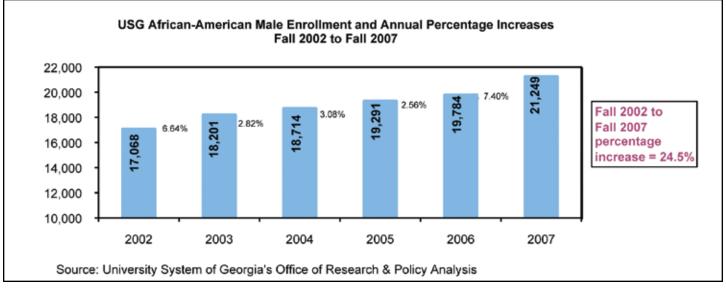


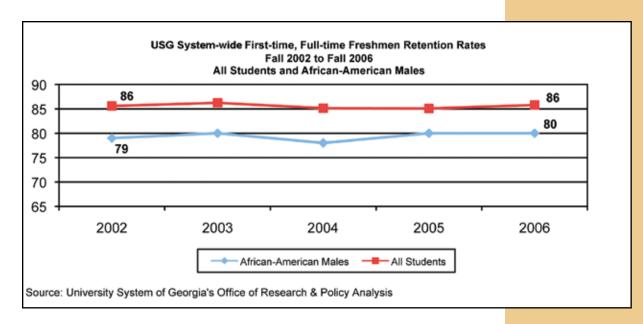
The University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative Outcomes

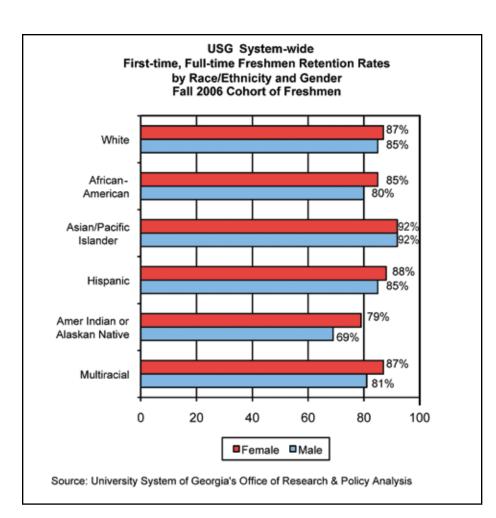
Enrollment

The University System of Georgia has made tremendous strides with black male enrollment over the last few years. Between fall 2002 and fall 2007, their enrollment increased by 24.5 percent, from 17,068 in 2002 to 21,249 in 2007 — an addition of 4,181 black male students. Among the full-time freshmen population, African-American male enrollment increased 44 percent during this same period, from 2,811 to 4,058. This outpaced both white female and white male enrollment increases. White male enrollment increased 6 percent, from 10,864 in 2002 to 11,569 in 2007, while white female enrollment increased 7 percent, from 12,547 in 2002 to 13,444 in 2007.









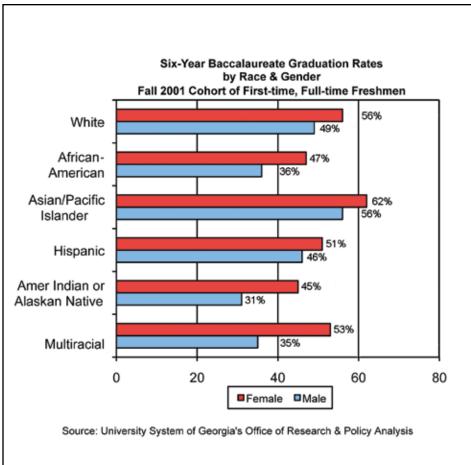
Retention

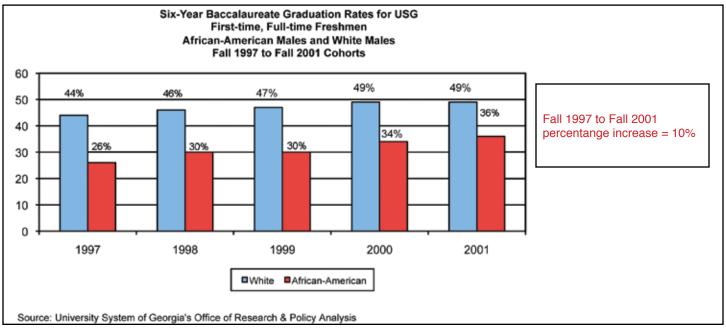
Retention rate data in the USG is reported in two ways: "Institution-specific" retention, which means that the student was retained at the same institution in which they initiatially enrolled; and "System-wide" retention, which means that the student was enrolled at any one of the 35 institutions of the USG in their sophomore year.

The system-wide retention rate for black male freshmen that entered the USG in the fall 2002 was 79 percent (total number: 1,740). For the group of black men who entered the USG four years later, in the fall 2006, their retention rate improved to 80 percent. This was achieved in conjunction with a significant increase in the number of black male freshmen in the fall 2006 cohort (total number: 2,163). This also compares to 85 percent retention rates in fall 2002 and fall 2006 for both African-American females and white males, although there were four times as many white male freshmen enrolled as black males.

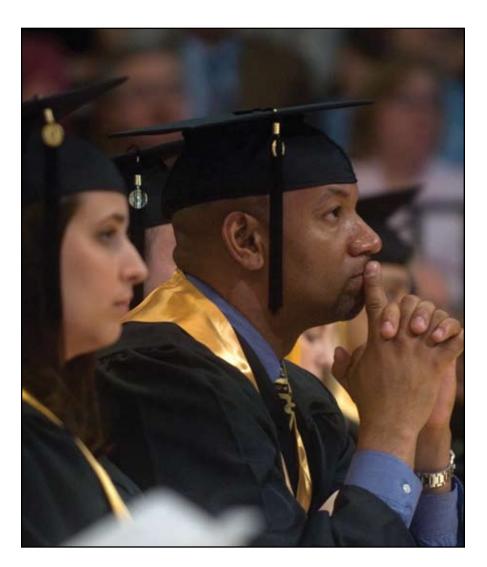
Graduation

Significant strides have been made within the USG with regard to black male graduation rates, with a 10 percent increase achieved over the past four years. Citing the national benchmark of six years, the graduation rate for first-time, African-American freshmen that entered in fall 1997 was 26 percent. That rate climbed steadily for each new incoming cohort over the past several years, moving to 30 percent for the 1998 and 1999 cohorts; then to 34 percent for the 2000 cohort; and ultimately, to 36 percent for the 2001 cohort, which graduated in spring 2007. Black females also documented a 10 percent increase in their six-year graduation rates, from 37 percent for the cohort that entered in fall 1997, to 47 percent for the cohort that entered in fall 2001. Again, while both groups have made very impressive gains, the challenge is to close the gap not only between black females and males, but also between black males and white males, whose six-year graduation rates improved from 49 percent to 57 percent, respectively, during this same period.



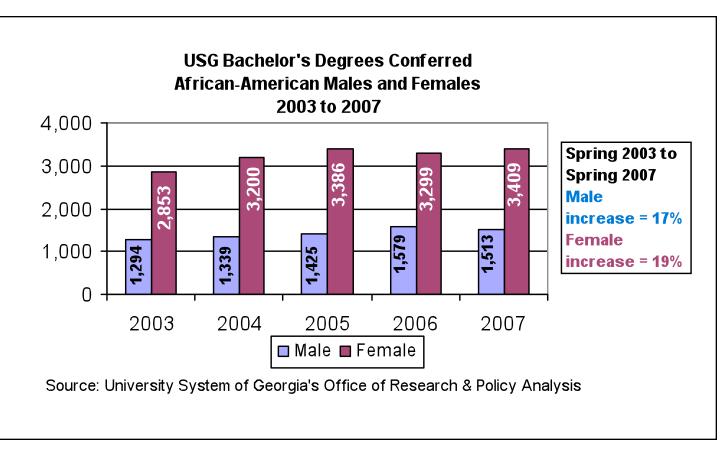


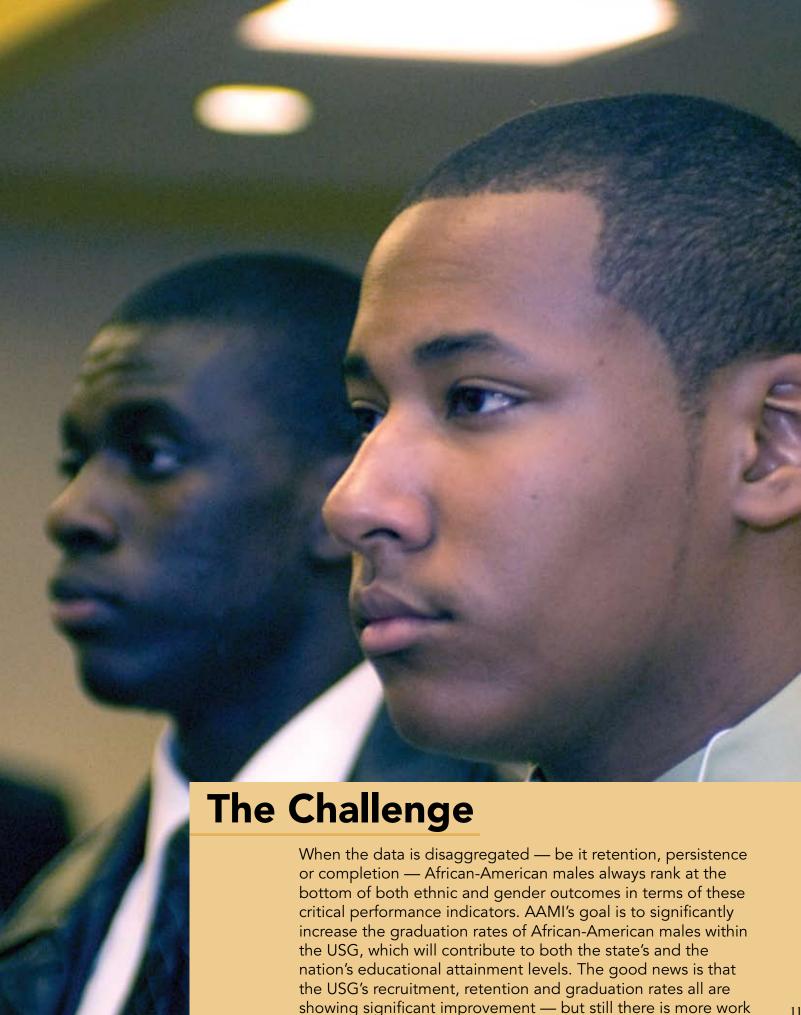
8 Source: University System of Georgia's Office of Research & Policy Analysis



Degrees **Conferred**

The University System of Georgia must increase the number of degrees conferred to African-American males. That performance indicator also is showing progress. The number of degrees conferred to African-American males at USG institutions increased from 1,294 in 2003 to 1,513 in 2007 — an increase of 17 percent. Among African-American females, the increase was 19 percent moving from 2,853 to 3,409.





to be done.

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM USG Institutions	Programs	Academic Levels	_
03G institutions	Programs	Served	Program Contacts
	Control of the African Association	1	1
Albany State University	Center for the African-American Male The Center for the African-American Male provides a variety of educational, enrichment and motivational activities for the development of African-American men. CAAM prepares young men for the future by providing them with mentors to help them develop useful skills in a relaxed group setting. CAAM provides programs that address the needs of students in the areas of education, mentoring and raising self-esteem, preparation for employment, conflict resolutions, tutoring and community service.	Elementary School: Grade 2 Middle School: Grades 6-8 High School: Grades 9-12	Mr. Frank Wilson Director Center for the African-American Male Albany State University 504 College Drive Albany, GA 31705-2717 Frank.wilson@asurams.edu (229) 430-1911
	The Holley Institute The Holley Institute provides precollege and freshman students needed enrichment to increase their chances of being admitted to Albany State University. The Holley Institute works to increase the SAT scores of participants in order to meet minimum requirements (400 math and 430 verbal) for admittance to Albany State University by providing computerbased and curriculum-based training and instruction.	College Level: Incoming Freshmen	Dr. Ontario Wooden Director The Holley Institute Albany State University 504 College Drive Albany, GA 31705-2717 Ontario.wooden@asurams.edu (229) 430-1632
Augusta State University	The Talented Tenth The Talented Tenth program was established to assist in diminishing the barriers that African-American male college students face during their years in higher education. The goal of the program is to increase graduation rates. The mission is accomplished by: advancing the professional and personal development of character; increasing a sense of camaraderie among its members; providing academic programming throughout grade levels K-12; and assisting students to overcome barriers by acquiring knowledge and building relationships with faculty outside of the classroom.	Elementary School: Grades K-5 Middle School: Grades 6-8 High School: Grades 9-12 College Level	Ms. Karen Mobley Director of Student Development Augusta State University 2500 Walton Way Augusta, GA 30904-2200 kmobley@aug.edu (706) 729-2351
Coastal Georgia Community College	Minority Outreach Program A concentrated dropout intervention program for 7th grade African-American males, offered over several weeks in June and July on the CGCC campus. Follow-up activities are conducted throughout the school year in a Saturday academy. Participants receive tutorial assistance, counseling and mentoring as needed. Torchbearers The mission of the Torchbearers Club is to provide African-American males the academic, social and cultural skills needed to complete college via an intense mentoring experience.	Middle School: Grades 6-8 College Level	Mr. Floyd Phoenix Coordinator of Recruitment Coastal Georgia Community College 3700 Altama Avenue Brunswick, GA 31520 fphoenix@CGCC.edu (912) 262-3295

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALE INITIATIVE PROGRAMS

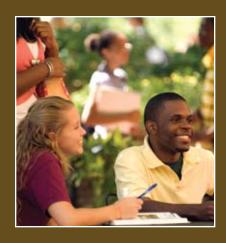
USG Institutions	Programs	Academic Levels	Program
		Served	Contacts
Columbus State University	Buddies for Success The target population for the Buddies for Success program is K-5. Boys to Men The Boys to Men program's target population is grades six to 12. Both of these mentoring programs allow students from high-risk areas in the community to be mentored by successful African-American role models in the fields of politics, medicine and law. The students are taught life skills, leadership development, and the vices and virtues of humanity. Real Talk Real Talk is relatively new, targeting young men at the higher education level. The young men are encouraged to engage bi-weekly in real life discussions that give a true depiction of the issues facing African-American males on a college campus. The goals of these programs are to provide mentoring and prepare these young men for the real world.	Elementary School: Grades K-5 Middle School: Grades 6-8 High School: Grades 9-12 College Level	Mr. Collins B. McCrary Minority Affairs Coordinator Columbus State University 4225 University Avenue Columbus, GA 31907-5645 Mccrary_collins@colstate.edu (706) 568-2456
Darton College	Achieving A College Education (ACE) Fellowship Program Darton's ACE Fellowship Program was designed and implemented to address the low number of African-American males applying to, matriculating at, and graduating from Darton College. This initiative has allowed students enrolled in K-12 curriculums to be introduced to higher education and supplemental instruc- tion programs during their formative years. This effort continues to positively impact recruitment and retention.	Elementary School: Grades K-5 Middle School: Grades 6-8 High School: Grades 9-12 College Level	Ms. Wendy Wilson Director of Minority Advising Darton College 2400 Gillionville Road Albany, GA 31707-3098 Wendy.wilson@darton.edu (229) 317-6925
Fort Valley State University	Four Pillars Learning Community A major purpose for the Four Pillars program is to improve the retention rate of first-year African-American males. The program establishes a cadre of professionals, referred to as the Academic Retention Consultants. These consultants provide tutorials, or- ganize small group study sessions and conduct weekly study workshops for participants as they advance through their respective core courses.	Middle School: Grades 6-8 High School: Grades 9-12 College Level: Incoming Freshman	Dr. Melody L. Carter VP for External Affairs Fort Valley State University 1005 State University Drive Fort Valley, GA 31030-4313 Carterm0@fvsu.edu (478) 825-6397 Dr. Dawn Herd-Clark Assistant Professor of History Fort Valley State University 1005 State University 1005 State University 1005 State University 1006 State University 1007 State University 1008 State University 1009 State University 1005 State University 1006 State University 1007 State University 1007 State University 1008 State University
Gainesville State College	Reaching Out and Pulling Up This program works to increase the number of African-American male students who enroll in college prep classes in high school and who graduate from high school and college.	Middle School: Grades 6-8 High School: Grades 9-12 College Level	Ms. Andre Cheek Director of Minority Affairs Gainsville State College P.O. Box 1358 Gainesville, GA 30503 acheek@gsc.edu (678) 717-3749

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USG Institutions	Programs	Academic Levels Served	Program Contacts
Georgia College & State University	Academic Initiative for Males Academy (AIM) AIM Academy is a week-long residential program for 20 African- American male students ages 12-16 from Baldwin, Hancock, and Putnam counties. AIM Academy is based on six fundamental components: (1) residential writing program; (2) one- to-one mentoring, (3) team projects, (4) leadership development, (5) civic engagement/service learning, and (6) a completion ceremony.	High School: Grades 9-12	Ms. Allia L. Carter Director of Diversity & Multicultural Affairs Georgia College & State University P.O. Box 23 Milledgeville, GA 31061 Allia.carter@gcsu.edu (478) 445-6293
Georgia Highlands College	Georgia Highlands AAMI Program The college's AAMI program is aimed at enhancing the recruitment, reten- tion, and graduation of black males by offering a first-year experience for African-American male students.	Middle School: Grades 6-8 High School: Grades 9-12 College Level: Incoming Freshman	Dr. Jon Hershey Professor of English Georgia Highlands College 3175 Cedartown Highway, SE Rome, GA 30161 jhershey@highlands.edu (706) 368-7629
Georgia Perimeter College	Leadership Academy The Leadership Academy is a scholar- ship and retention program for students who are under-represented in higher education. Focusing predominately on African-American males, the program offers post- secondary educational opportunities such as financial, academic and personal support. In addition, stu- dents are well prepared to continue their education toward a bachelor's degree. College Transition Program The College Transition Program is a summer bridge experience designed to increase recruitment and enhance the preparation of African-American males for college.	High School: Grades 9-12 College Level: Incoming Freshman	Ms. Colletta Hassell Project Director Georgia Perimeter College Leadership Academy Georgia Perimeter College 3251 Panthersville Road Decatur, GA 30034-3897 Chassell@gpc.edu (678) 891-2455
Georgia Southern University	On Eagles Wings – Boyz-2-Men Mentoring Academy "On Eagles Wings" is a mentoring program for African-American youths in Bulloch County, who have been identified by Educational Opportunity Programs and school personnel as being at high-risk for academic failure. This programs's goal is to provide students with a positive and nurturing environment that will help them become confident and productive, stay in school, and set goals of postsecondary education.	Middle School: Grades 6-8 High School: Grades 9-12	Ms. Sue Hawks-Foster Director, TRIO Georgia Southern University PO Box 8055 Statesboro, GA 30460 sfoster@georgiasouthern.edu (912) 681-5458
Georgia Southwestern University	The African American Male Institute The Institute is dedicated to develop- ing a comprehensive mentoring and academic program. It is designed to recruit, enroll, retain and graduate African-American males at Georgia Southwestern University.	High School: Grades 9-12 College Level: Incoming Freshman	Mr. Ervin D. Anderson Assistant Professor of Mathematics Georgia Southwestern University 800 Georgia Southwestern State Univ. Drive Americus, GA 31709-4693 eda@canes.gsw.edu (229) 931-2200
Georgia State University	Brothers Keepers Tighter Grip These two programs focus on providing African-American male undergraduates resources for their academic studies, interpersonal relationships, career focus and self-identity via group discussions, team builders and lectures. The males also are encouraged to enhance their leadership abilities by actively participating on executive boards for the many student organizations at the university. The program's goals are to increase the retention, progression and graduation percentages of African-American males at Georgia State University.	College Level	Dr. Doris A. Derby Director, African-American Student Services and Programs Georgia State University P.O. Box 3965 Atlanta, GA 30303-3083 STDDAD@langate.gsu.edu (404) 413-1530

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALE INITIATIVE PROGRAMS

		-	INITIATIVE PROGRAMS
USG Institutions	Programs	Academic Levels Served	Program Contacts
Kennesaw State University	KSU African American Male Initiative The KSU AAMI's goal is to enhance the recruitment, retention and graduation of African-American males entering as first-time, full-time students at KSU. Participants include African-American males in the KSU AAMI Learning Community, as well as members of the KSU Distinguished Black Gentlemen student organization.	College Level	Ms. Nicole Phillips Assistant Director of Minority Student Retention Services Kennesaw State University 1000 Chastain Road Kennesaw, GA 30144-5591 nphill10@kennesaw.edu (770) 499-3546
Medical College of Georgia	Call Me Doctor The purpose of this project is to provide health-career enrichment activities to selected 11th and 12th grade males attending high school in Richmond County, who have an interest in a career in medicine, and who have at least a 3.0 grade point average. This program includes an introduction to medicine and the academic preparation required, exposure to the anatomy lab, mentoring by MCG medical students, physician speakers, college field trips and presentations on personal development.	High School: Grades 11-12	Dr. Wilma Sykes Brown Assistant Dean Educational Outreach & Partnerships Medical College of Georgia 1120 Fifteenth Street Augusta, GA 30912 wsykes@mail.mcg.edu (706) 721-2522
Southern Polytechnic State University	Success Through Advanced and Resourceful Students (STARS) This program is designed to widen the pipeline of African-American males entering science, technology, engineering and math disciplines, ultimately increasing the number of students enrolling at SPSU.	Middle School: Grades 6-8 College Level	Dr. Jeff Orr Director Advising, Testing, Tutoring, and International Student Center Southern Polytechnic State University 1100 South Marietta Parkway Marietta, GA 30060-2896 jorr@spsu.edu (678) 915-7489
The University of Georgia	Gentlemen on the Move GOTM is a developmental and comprehensive initiative that aims to transform adolescent African- American males, by assessing where they are, where they should be (academically and socially), and by providing them with the necessary tools to complete the transformation.	Middle School: Grades 6-8 High School: Grades 9-12	Dr. Deryl Bailey Associate Professor Counseling & Human Development Services The University of Georgia Athens, GA 30602 dfbailey@uga.edu (706) 583-0126
University of West Georgia	Black Men With Initiative (BMWI) This initiative was instituted in 2002 to develop culturally aware, academi- cally strong, community-minded, and spiritually grounded African-American male leaders.	College Level	Dr. Said Sewell Associate Professor Department of Politcal Science University of West Georgia 1601 Maple Street Carrollton, GA 30118 ssewell@westga.edu (678) 839-4997
Valdosta State University	HEROES Institute (Helping Everyone Receive Optimum Educational Success) HEROES encourages black males to graduate from high school and, to broaden their career alternatives and graduating with a degree, preferably from a University System of Georgia school. The VSU AAMI Team offers Saturday academic classes in English, Algebra I, Social Studies and French to 25 ninth grade African American males.	High School: Grade 9 College Level	Dr. Shirley H. Hardin Project Director HEROES Institute Valdosta State University 1500 North Patterson Street Valdosta, GA 31698 shardin@valdosta.edu (229) 249-4843



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

For more information, please contact:

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Betsy Green, Assistant Director, University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative betsy_green@kennesaw.edu 770-499-3694