EOPS Association 2013 Annual Conference- Four Points Sheraton, Los Angeles, Ca- Oct 23, 2013 - 2:15pm-3:15pm

Once a Victim, Now Victorious #Winning: Healing the Achievement Gap with Emphasis on African American Males

Facilitators: Andrea Bell, George G. Mills, Jr. & Jeffrey W. Benford, Sr.

#### Session Disclaimer 1

Although the academic journey has many stages, from outreach to success (degrees, transfer, certificates), this session focuses on the most initial stage of outreach and a challenge that frequently occurs at this stage. Participants expecting to get an easy, canned fix to the complex, systemic challenge of effective outreach to African American males in higher education should leave now or stay and be disappointed!

#### Session Disclaimer 2

References will be made during this session to race/racism, sexuality and other social constructs of power with critical reflections of participant uses and/or abuses of such constructs.

#### Goal

Model a process for discovering the asset of student social capital and linking this asset to the redemptive intention of healing the greatest disparity in achievement among and within gender and ethnic groups

#### Objectives

- To assist participants in identifying untapped assets that can boost outreach efforts to African American males
- To assist participants in defining action that can be taken to build momentum in their outreach focused on African American males

#### **Ground Rules**

- 1. No advise-giving
- 2. No put-downs or judgments
- 3. Right to pass
- 4. One talks, all others listen
- 5. Use I-statements- tell your truth

#### Radical Imminent Abundance

The journey into the space between the pull toward annihilation and the pull toward endless, re-creative possibilities that is propelled by humility, courageous agency, and a disquieted wholeness that is ever-seeking a fuller expression of itself wherever human life needs to be restored.

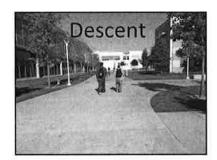
J. W. Benford, Sr., Dean of Counseling and Student Support Service
 Los Medanos College

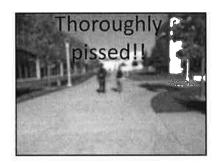
Mapping Our Journey
"The way is the goal"

-- Inward Journey: Art as Therapy for You Margaret F. Keyes









# Depths 2008-09 State Chancellor's 39 % budget out deduced staff by 47%















The important thing is this: to be able at any moment to sacrifice what we are for what we could become -- Charles DuBos, Fieuch literary critic



# Confession 1

I thought that how I saw African American (AfAm) male students was more important that how they saw me.

# Confession 2

I thought that, as an AfAm male, being Black was enough social capital to have some clout with AfAm male students.

# Confession 3

I thought that my socioeconomic and political position as a college administrator gave me greater social capital than AfAm male students had among their peers.

# Confession 4

I was sure as an older, AfAm man, I was due respect from younger AfAm male students.

# Confession 5

I thought that, because I am the *only* AfAm male student support administrator at my college, I had a special mandate to solve the problem of AfAm male achievement.



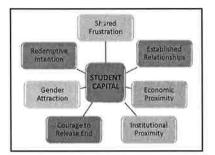
"You remind me of the Lone Ranger"

"Let me help you."

"Here's the plan."

"But you are just a studentand one student at that!" "You can only create institutional change by first dealing with the internal conditions that produce change. Substantive change starts there."

> — Dr. Newin C. Paul Granto VP Student Services, Diablo Valley Coflego



MAP
Identify your assets

**TRUST** 

Let your students become your teachers

# **COMMUNICATE**

Inform management and students of priorities and plans

RISK

Give access to resources

**LEARN** 

Watch social capital work

"Not enough time ..."

VICTIM

VICTOR

• 1.85 FTE

53.85 FTE

• 148 Contact Hours 4,308 Contact Hours "No State Chancellor's Office Support"

VICTIM

• 1.85 FTE

VICTOR
• Region 3

• EOPS IG, Sec Art 3, Sec 56280, p56 "No community ties ..."

VICTIM
• 1.85 FTE

VICTOR
• 1.85 FTE

 EOPS Advisory Board—3 principles of alternative H.S., 4 principles of comprehensive HS

"No District Support"

VICTIM
• 1.85 FTE

VICTOR

• Early Alert

• EOPS Trends Report

• Pre/Post Survey

• \$2,000 Tutoring

• \$500 gathering

Several Town Halls

"No faculty support"

VICTIM

VICTOR

• 7% Early Alert • 87% Early Alert

"Not enough money"

VICTIM

VICTOR

• 1.85 FTE

• 53.85 FTE

• \$7,000

• \$43.42

"This trial of faith that we go through ... The fuel of our oppressions is the fuel of freedom, too."

Lyrics "Acquiesce " K.D. Lang

What fear do I have to let go of in order to learn from failure?

What is failure trying to teach me?

Victim-Thinking: Map of Assets

"It's just me and a limited handful that care"

Limited budget

Limited time

Activities carried out by limited handful

Limited handful own results.

