In 2014, the Minority Male Community College Collaborative (M2C3) of California released a report that highlighted the negative outcomes for men of color in the California Community College system. The study found that African American men in particular had the lowest overall persistence rates and credit course completion rate, and third lowest graduation/transfer rates with only a 2% difference from being the lowest.

In an effort to combat this educational epidemic, Los Medanos College’s EOPS (Extended Opportunity Program and Services) Department has taken an innovative approach to decreasing the achievement gap between minority male students and their counterparts by creating the Brothers of Excellence Program (BOEP) in 2015.

BOEP is an ambitious program designed to dramatically improve academic and life outcomes for men of color students who attend LMC by creating and nurturing academic and community partnerships that guide, inspire, and motivate these men to reach their full potential.
THE BEGINNING OF EXCELLENCE IN ALL YOU DO!

6 Success Factors
The implementation of BOEP at LMC

To ensure that men of color are equitably represented among students who graduate or transfer at LMC, BOEP’s mission is outlined in the following six areas:

DIRECTION: BOEP students, upon entering the program voluntarily, will be encouraged and supported in setting their academic goal, and in creating an education plan to achieve it.

FOCUS: BOEP students will meet bi-weekly as a group (weekly if needed) with BOEP coordinators and guest speakers for mentoring and to support them in staying on track to meet their short-term (course completion) and long-term (graduate/transfer) goals, and to support them in overcoming barriers to their goals.

NURTURE: The BOEP will embody LMC’s “family” atmosphere, where students feel supported and wanted, with a college dedicated to help them succeed.

ENGAGE: BOEP students will actively participate in class, and in extra-curricular and community activities.

CONNECT: BOEP will support students in feeling that they are a vital part of LMC’s community, connected through active participation in academic programs, campus events and meetings.

VALUE: Through personal development activities, BOEP students will use their skills, talents, abilities and experiences to contribute on campus and feel their contributions are appreciated.

BOEP’s Commitment
BOEP is dedicated to providing comprehensive guidance, mentoring, and support to historically under-served minority male students. Program leaders will focus on fostering motivation, teaching problem solving skills, providing academic support, and ensuring that each of the “six success factors” are properly addressed and successfully implemented. The ultimate goal is to support men of color achieve education and career goals.

The LMC EOPS Vision:
EOPS students and staff are passionate change-agents, thriving as they create and nurture intentional academic partnerships. These partnerships are designed to inspire people to choose trust over fear, equity over injustice, responsibility over victimhood, hope over apathy, self-honesty over competition; and to ultimately link personal success to the success of the greater good.

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Equal access to education is the civil rights issue of today and it’s something that needs to be addressed across all borders. Education is the equalizer.