

# IMPACT & OUTLOOK 2016 - 2017

## African American Student Services

### DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

#### Who We Are

African American Student Services is committed to recognizing the differences within the African American culture, appreciating other cultures, and promoting programs within the university and the surrounding community that provide a cross-cultural perspective. Our staff is available to support the personal, academic, educational, and social development of students. African American Student Services is not a duplicate of other services on the campus, but rather it concentrates on the special concerns that arise from the experience of being an African American on a pre-dominantly white campus. All students, regardless of ethnicity, are encouraged to participate in our cultural and academic programming.

#### Mission

The mission of African American Student Services (AASS) at UNM is to provide culturally relevant programs designed to assist primarily African American Students in making a confident transition from high school into the University of New Mexico.

#### Vision

The vision of the African American Student Services is the creation of a Black center of excellence on the campus of the University of New Mexico.



#### Impact on Students

African American Student Services productively impacts students through pipeline and transitional programming, targeted recruitment, retention and graduation, as well as holistic cultural support.



## Programs, Services, Sub-units and Initiatives

<b>AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES</b> 1-3 sentence description of program, subunit or initiative, including target population (if different from entire student population), and number of individuals served 2016-17 (if data is available)	
<b>Summer BEST Academy</b> <i>The University of New Mexico African American Student Services Summer BEST Academy is an academic program that takes a holistic approach in shaping education in African American 8th grade students. The 2-week Academic program will emphasize developing students' math and science skills, introducing them to college life, and stimulating their interest in STEM degree programs and career paths.</i>	Research & Assessment, Critical Thinking, Collaboration
<b>Welcome Back BBQ</b> <i>The Annual African American Student Services Welcome Back BBQ is held the first Thursday of every school year (in August). Our BBQ welcomes both our new and returning students to the new academic year. It also gives our students an opportunity to meet faculty, staff, alumni, and community members that can assist in their matriculation.</i>	Communication
<b>Black Cultural Conference</b> <i>The Black Cultural Conference: Mobilizing The Black Millennial Legacy. The conference is designed for high school, undergraduate and graduate students, and professionals to participate in workshops, discussions and lectures focusing on health, professional development, social justice and leadership skills as they are related to and effect millennial Black communities. Our featured speakers were cable-news regular, politician and attorney, Bakari Sellers, and his father, Cleveland Sellers, veteran educator and co-founder of the Civil Rights-era student protest group, SNCC.</i>	Professionalism, Communication, Critical Thinking
<b>Research Symposium</b> <i>The Research Symposium prepares and exposes students (focused especially on lowerclassmen) to research methods &amp; opportunities, in preparation for programs like McNair.</i>	Professionalism, Communication, Critical Thinking
<b>Cultural Workshops</b> <i>AASS's Cultural Workshops focus on various important Black cultural issues, including, but not limited to student real talks, lectures, forums and workshops related to Black life and experience.</i>	Communication, Critical Thinking
<b>ZEAL</b> <i>ZEAL, in partnership with the UNM Athletic Department, will use mentors and tutors to enhance positive behaviors among first generation and transfer student-athletes. The ZEAL program will in its endeavors continue to promote academic excellence for student athletes, University wide.</i>	Professionalism, Communication, Collaboration
<b>Flag Raising Ceremony</b> <i>To Kick off Black History Month programming, African American Student Services raises the Pan African Flag at Scholes Hall. At this ceremony, UNM Administrators, Black faculty, staff and students come together to celebrate Black excellence.</i>	Communication
<b>Awards &amp; Recognition Ceremony</b> <i>Our Awards and Recognition Ceremony gives African American Student Services an opportunity to recognize the academic and service/volunteerism accomplishments of our students from the university.</i>	Communication

## Fiscal Update, Revenues

Source	Amount
I&G	\$184,128
SFRB	\$86,768
RPSP	\$66,800

## Goals for 2017-18

1. African American Student Services will continue to focus on the retention and graduation of African American students at the University of New Mexico.
2. African American Student Services Black Student Association (BSA) will promote and advocate on behalf of the center in order to increase the number of students who will utilize our services. In addition, BSA will raise concerns the Black student population is facing to AASS and other appropriate administration.
3. African American Student Services in partnership with enrollment management will aim to increase the number of Black students who attend UNM over the next three to five years.
4. The Director of African American Student Services will explore opportunities to create exchange programs with Historically Black colleges/Universities to enhance our recruitment, retention and graduation rates of our students.
5. African American Student Services will continue its dialogue with the UNM Foundation Office, UNM Administration and independent fundraisers to continue its participation in the efforts to secure large donations.





## Selected Impacts and Outcomes

African American Student Services has consistently promoted retention and graduation efforts through the various programs targeted for our student body. We have continued to remain committed to providing programs that meet students' needs socially, culturally, and academically.

Our BEST Academy, Research Symposium, African American Student Day, and Late Night Study halls all fulfill the academic needs of our student population. The BEST Academy provides 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with early exposure to the University of New Mexico and exposure to the STEM degree programs at the university as well as provides the students with hands on STEM activities. The Research Symposium gives undergraduate students time to dissect a subject relevant to their field of study that connects back to our community and allows them to present it to the student body as a whole. African American Student Day allows us to recruit African American students while exposing them to AASS and the University of New Mexico. Our study halls allow students an environment in which students can peer tutor and mentor each other through their courses. In addition, we provide additional workshops and programs that discuss various opportunities of study, involvement, etc. for African American students at UNM.

African American Student Services provides cultural needs for our students through our Black History Month Flag Raising Ceremony, Cultural workshops throughout the academic year, Girl Talk, and Real Talk Tuesdays. These events serve to expose, honor, and teach Black culture at the University of New Mexico. Our Black at UNM Town hall has become an annual event in which Black students have the opportunity to speak with administration about their experiences at UNM and raise concerns, questions, and solutions to UNM administrators. Moreover, all of these programs and workshops provide an opportunity for students to apply their fields of study into larger discussions relating to various aspects of Black culture on micro and macro levels.

Our social events consist of our Welcome Back BBQ and Awards and Recognition Ceremony. Our BBQ is by far our largest event due to the large participation from the African American community both within in UNM and the large Albuquerque area. The BBQ welcomes both our new and returning students to the new academic year. It also gives our students an opportunity to meet faculty, staff, alumni, and community members that can assist in their matriculation. Our Awards and Recognition gives African American Student Services an opportunity to recognize the academic and service/volunteerism accomplishments of our students from the university.

Lastly, we re-introduced ZEAL as a collaborative mentorship program with African American Student Services and Athletics. ZEAL provides Black student athletes with a mentor and necessary resources to matriculate, while focusing on the educational, professional, cultural, and social development of the students.

### Quick Facts

- Serves, recruits and retains a targeted student population
- Creates successful, active pipelines from local Albuquerque high schools through signature pipeline programs
- Provides culturally competent advising, counseling and tutoring services
- Hosts forums, talks, and workshops focusing on a wide range of topics, from campus climate to mental health, from professional development to academics an everything in between
- Have 6 distinct student groups that individually focus on mentorship, fellowship, singing, political action and community service

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African American Student Services  
MSC06 3820, 1 University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87107