

# IMPACT & OUTLOOK 2018 - 2019

## 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 Black Students in making a confident transition into the University of New Mexico.

#### Vision

The vision of African American Student Services is to cultivate Black Excellence on the University campus through educational discourse, leadership development, holistic health practices, and community engagement.



#### Impact on Students

African American Student Services productively impacts students through targeted recruitment, pipeline and transitional programming, research exposure, and holistic cultural support to assist in the retention, matriculation, and graduation of Black students.



## Programs, Services, Sub-units and Initiatives

PROGRAM	Academic Affairs Engagement*	UNM 5 **
<p><b>Black Cultural Conference</b> The Black Cultural Conference: Blackness Unchained – Radical Self care. 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 our current student population. Our featured speaker was Ericka Huggins, former Black Panther Party Leader who discussed importance of self-care to promote mentally healthy campuses. Participation yielded about 150 collegiate students</p>	Moderate	Professionalism Communication Critical Thinking Collaboration Research and Assessment
<p><b>African American Student Day/Targeted Recruitment trips</b> African American Student Day is an early exposure and recruitment day for African American juniors and seniors throughout the Albuquerque metro area and larger NM State. The program allows students to hear from enrollment management, housing, dual credit, AASS staff and students, as well as academic departments. Schools unable to participate in AASS receive targeted recruitment workshops from AASS throughout the academic year.</p>	Minimal	Collaboration Communication
<p><b>Summer BEST Academy</b> 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.</p>	Extensive	Critical Thinking Collaboration Research & Assessment Professionalism
<p><b>Research Symposium</b> The Research Symposium prepares and exposes students (focused especially on freshmen) to research methods &amp; opportunities, in preparation for programs like McNair.</p>	Minimal	Professionalism, Communication, Research & Assessment Critical Thinking
<p><b>ZEAL</b> 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.</p>	Moderate	Professionalism, Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking
<p><b>BOSS</b> This mentorship program is focused on the acclimation of African American freshmen to the University. Students participate in programs, workshops, community service, and an end-of-year HBCU exposure trip</p>	Minimal	Professionalism, Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking
<p><b>Awards &amp; Recognition Ceremony</b> 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.</p>	Minimal	Professionalism
<p><b>Welcome Back BBQ</b> 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</p>	Moderate	Communication, Collaboration
<p><b>Black History Month Programming</b> Month long programming to engage UNM community in highlighting the contributions of Black leaders, scholars, activists, etc. to our country, community, and University. Programming encompasses academic, cultural, and social themes.</p>	Moderate	Professionalism, Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking

<p><b>Cultural Workshops</b> AASS's 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.</p>	Minimal-Moderate	Communication, Critical Thinking
<p><b>Black Minds Matter FYEX 1110 Course</b> Navigating UNM as a Black student can present a unique set of challenges and opportunities. Black Minds Matter will provide you the chance to connect with several Black student organizations and the Albuquerque Black Community while also providing essential academic and life skill resources to help you succeed throughout your freshmen year. Utilizing an afro-centric approach to all course topics, we ensure that culture is connected to student academic success. Students will demonstrate problem solving through a variety of engaging in class discussions and assignments geared towards preparing students for first year college challenges. 2. Students will demonstrate critical thinking through project based learning and exposure to the Black Cultural Conference session topics. 3. Students will demonstrate personal &amp; social responsibility through a series of "real talk" discussions and reflection assignments.</p>	Moderate-Extensive	Professionalism, Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking, Research & Assessment
<p><i>Note: *Extensive engagement is defined as UNM faculty being involved with more than 50% of either program planning or implementation. Moderate engagement involves faculty in 11-49%, and minimal engagement involves faculty in 0-10%</i></p>		

## Fiscal Update, Revenues

Source	Amount
I&G	182,377
RPSP	69,800
HB536 non-recurring	50,000
SFRB	73,870

## Goals for 2019-20

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 Alliance (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 through various efforts including targeted recruitment.
4. 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 as well as searching for grant opportunities.

## 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.

Over the past year, we have adopted a more intrusive approach to holistic advisement support of students. This is inclusive of collaborating with enrollment management to better target students deemed "at-risk" per financial aid status and/or "stopping out." In addition, we have developed targeted communication for students with GPAs under 2.5 across all colleges to inform them of our office and support services provided. Moreover, we are also collaborating with University College through the development of a freshmen transition course designed for Black freshmen students to successfully acclimate to the University. Currently, there are 17 students registered for this course.

In addition to this effort, we also believe that our programs collectively support the academic, social, and cultural needs of our students in the following ways:

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.

Our Black Cultural Conference and BOSS program fulfills the academic, social, and cultural needs of our students through engaging dialogue with peers, staff, faculty, administrators and community. This was the second year we held the conference in conjunction with African American Student Day and allowed high school students to be exposed to UNM resources as well as a post-secondary conference. The results yielded 220 student participants (collegiate and high school). Our BOSS program essentially provides freshmen and transfer students with yearlong programming support their first year retention 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.

Collectively, we believe these efforts have assisted in our retention numbers at the University as Black student retention grew to 70% for 3<sup>rd</sup> semester.

### Quick Facts

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| ⌘ Resources and support center for Black students at the University both undergrad and grad/professional.                  | ⌘ 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 5 distinct student groups that individually focus on mentorship, fellowship, political action and community service | ⌘ Creates successful, active pipelines from local Albuquerque high schools through signature pipeline programs   |
| ⌘ Provides culturally competent advising, counseling and tutoring services   |  |
| ⌘ Teaches a first year 3 credit hour transition course designed to acclimate Black students to UNM                         |  |