



Perceptions of Place: Black Students at Florida State University

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Abstract

The purpose of this research project is to try to understand the effects of African American students at Florida State University. The way we would be collecting data is through interviews of African American students on campus. At the beginning of this research study, we were tasked to recruit students and ask for the emails of those students on campus that we knew or were comfortable with asking questions. We have not completely got into our research but this semester we the research assistants are supposed to be interviewing students in order for the student to not feel primed to answer certain questions in a certain way as opposed to if they were interviewed by our mentors. We want the students in the study to feel as comfortable as possible while they answer our interview questions to ensure the answers they give are totally up to them. We expect that a lot of students will feel uncomfortable on campus but there are certain groups that they may be involved in that allow them to experience That sense of belongingness.

Methods

We propose that this study will be performed utilizing a qualitative research approach. Open-ended question interviews will be taken of undergraduate Florida State University students who are members of the Black Student Union. We anticipate this approach will allow the researcher to delve into the true experiences of black students who will be allowed to open up and share their thoughts, feelings, and ideas about being black on this campus. The researcher hopes to understand the impact and importance of the Black Student Union in efforts to achieve, social, cultural, and academic success throughout one's college years. A qualitative study is best for this study because it will allow the researcher to gain a deeper, meaningful understanding of how students learn about these organizations, the need to have such organizations, as the black student union and focus on what the organizations due for the professional development of young, black collegiate students.



Results

- After minimal interviews with black undergraduate students, we found that $\frac{1}{3}$ of students feel like they are underrepresented on campus.
- Statistically, African American students make up 8.4 % of the population on the Florida state university campus.
- 63% of black students graduate at the undergraduate level in 4 years.

Conclusion

Florida State University honors and takes pleasure in having a diverse and inclusive community. Black undergraduate students make up 8.4% of the student population, however, the number of Black students at Florida State University does not account for policies that are not being enacted to ensure Black students are comfortable and in all spaces on campus. Based on the interviews, Florida State University must aim to strengthen their environment socially to ensure everyone feels heard and not lonely. Black students at Florida State should be given the same treatment and respect in all aspects. Once this is done, we are certain that Florida State University should not have to worry about any recurring issues regarding Blacks being mistreated or underserved.

Future Directions

In the future, we'd suggest a longitudinal study with different types of tests done over time. With a longitudinal type of study, more evidence is collected over time which is more likely to be correct. Longitudinal studies also have stronger validity which allows researchers to have more accurate causal claims.