

Engaging Black Male  
Students in Afterschool  
Programs  
Nebraska Afterschool Conference  
September 28, 2012

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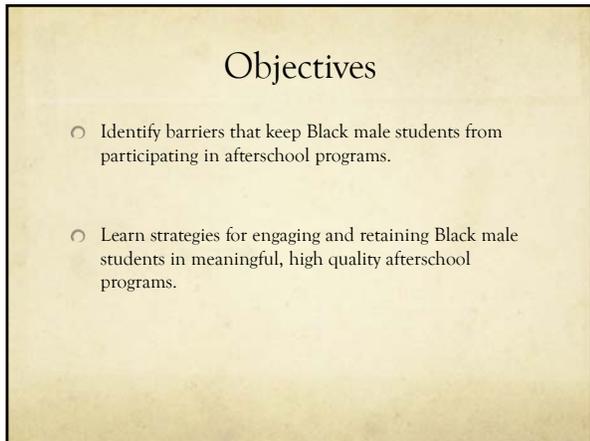
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Objectives

- Identify barriers that keep Black male students from participating in afterschool programs.
- Learn strategies for engaging and retaining Black male students in meaningful, high quality afterschool programs.

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What Do We Know about  
Black Males?

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### Small Group Discussions

- Do the percentage of Black males (and/or other minorities) that participate in your program reflect their numbers in your community/school?
- What attracts Black male students to your program?
- Why don't Black male students participate in your program?

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### Black Male Graduation Rates

- Nationally = 52% 2010 (Schott Report, 2012, p. 7)
- Nebraska = 44% 2010 (Schott Report, 2012, p. 9)
- Omaha = >50% 2010 (Omaha World Herald, 1/6/11)
- Lincoln = 65% for Class of 2010 (LPS Data)

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### Lighthouse



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### Lighthouse Experience

- I started at Lighthouse on May 17, 1991
- 17<sup>th</sup> & G, Atwood Mansion
- Black kids called it the "Whitehouse"
- My training

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### Our Goal



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### Lighthouse Challenge

- Staff were not comfortable dealing with Black males
- Multicultural expert example
- Students perceived differential treatment from staff
- Staff were not comfortable handling cultural conflicts:  
Why do you wear your pants so...

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## Three C's

- Connect
- Care
- Consistent

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## Connect

- Staff must find a way to connect with Black males
- The program offerings must connect with the interest of Black males
- Connecting with Black males is critical to the other two C's

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## Care

- "No significant learning occurs without a significant relationship." Dr. James Comer, Yale University
- De Mario Story
- What does care look like?

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## Consistent

- The adults that work closely with Black males must be consistent presence, low staff turnover is key
- The rules must be enforced the same way for all students, all the time: P.J. & his hat story
- Do what you say you will do: Say what you mean, mean what you say

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## Recommendations

- Hire staff that reflect the population in your program or the population that you want to participate
- Provide ways to engage youth in the development and implementation of program offerings
- Provide staff with training on Positive Youth Development and Diversity

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## Contact Information

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