

San Diego Mesa College

Student Services

Call to Action

Peer Navigator & CRUISE Programs

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San Diego Mesa College
Student Services
Call to Action

August 2020

...Student Services Leadership Team made a Call to Action to all Student Services departments. The call was a direct response to the spark felt around the world by the murder of George Floyd, the resulting light being shined on structural racism and our responsibility to ensure that our students have access to equitable outcomes and opportunities to succeed and thrive.

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August 2020

.....we asked each of our areas to identify at least one action step they will take this semester to address racial inequities, with a focus on Black students.

As the leading college of equity and excellence, it is imperative that we lead efforts addressing the monumental moment that we are in. We must commit to leading conversations with our teams and creating intentional goals that will lead to meaningful change for black and ultimately all, of students

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September 2020

Call to Action introduced to the Peer Navigator team. Each Peer Navigator was tasked with identifying on-campus resources and programs designed to support our African-American/Black CRUISERS. The research also taught our team, first-hand experience the steps necessary to locate and reach such resources.

Held space for processing thoughts/dialogue in our meeting to discuss Call to Action and racial inequities with team

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September 2020

Peer Navigators came up with the most popular programs:

- Mesa Academy (Umoja)
- Black Studies Department
- Black Lives Matter Resources Page

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October 2020 – Spring 2021

- Compile all findings into a resource list
- PNs were asked to share findings with their African-American/Black CRUISERS during monthly one-on-one meetings
- Time was provided to allow for intentionality and authentic dialogue to develop
- Focus group with African-American/Black CRUISERS set for spring semester

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Spring 2021 – April 2021

- Team provided bi-weekly updates to ensure progress
- PNs continued with their monthly meetings, sharing resources and encouraging CRUISERS to attend upcoming focus group
- Dean Maxey supported efforts by chatting with PNs

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April 9th at 1:00PM and 14th at 4:00PM

- CRUISE data points to a need for more African-American/Black CRUISE participation
- We'd like to hear from you and what we can do

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Community Agreements

- In our Zoom session, each student should feel free to express their own opinion and ideas in a respectful manner. Students should be open to listen to and appreciate differences in opinions, life experience, worldviews and values/beliefs.
- Our focus group is a hate-free zone. Please be mindful of how you communicate your values, beliefs, ideas and opinions. While we will often disagree with other people, it does not give anyone the right to intentionally hurt others with words or to discriminate against them.

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Community Agreements

- Words matter. This is especially important in a remote or virtual environment. Take a moment to think about what you want to say or post in the chat.
- Allow others to speak twice before speaking once

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April 14th at 4:00PM

- Findings and suggestions
 - Create survey to see who is willing to participate in such groups
 - Bring in a guest speaker during CRUISE
 - Advocate mental health
 - Can't assume all students are lacking resources
 - Show students how to check emails – make it a habit
 - Provide a “did you know” series on IG
 - Use text more often
 - Helpline for African-American/Black student support/help

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