

Narratives of Black Undergraduate Men: Manhood, Masculinities, and the First-Year Experience

> Christopher S. Travers & Tai A. Cornute









CHRIS S. TRAVERS

- Baltimore, MD
- Family Life
- Education
- B.S. Psychology, 2009- Frostburg
- M.A. Counseling Psychology, 2011- Towson
- Ph.D. HESA, Expected 2018- Ohio State
- Masculinity \neq Education.

Manhood

"While my parents taught me several lessons about what it means to be a man (e.g., strong, responsible, unemotional), my peers were the true teachers of manhood. Every part of my masculinity growing up was policed by both my male and female peers."

INTROS

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY



TAI A. CORNUTE

- Columbus, OH
- Family Life
- Education
- B.S. Social Work, 2008 Ohio State
- Executive M.B.A, expected 2018
- Manhood

"Growing up without a father, I learned what manhood was through examples of others; most notably that of my Uncle Daryl. I learned what real responsibility is and that as a man, I had to find and live by my own principles."



National Statistics on Black Men

- 5% of total undergraduate enrollment
- 1/3 will complete college in six years
- Lowest completion rate among both sexes and all racial/ethnic groups in postsecondary education



First-Year Experience

• Students are most prone to dropping out during their first year (Tinto, 1975)

- Academic and social engagement critical
- Sense of belonging (Strayhorn, 2012; Strayhorn, Lo, Travers, & Tillman-Kelly, 2015)



Black Manhood & Masculinities

- American and Afrocentric ideals (McClure, 2006)
- Socialized through family and peers (Harris, 2010)
 - Reinforced in school contexts
- Academic and social engagement (Dancy, 2012)
- Intersecting social identities (Strayhorn & Tillman-Kelly, 2013)



Active engagement helps Black men...

- Resolve masculine conflicts (Harper, 2004)
- Acquire social capital and access to resources
- Navigate racist stereotypes (Harper, 2005)
- Develop strong Black identities and serve in activist roles on campus (Harper & Quaye, 2007)



STUDENT PANEL

- Kenan Mathews
 - 2nd Year: Zoology
- Kyle McKinney
 - 2nd Year: Business
- DeMario Webb
 - 3rd Year: Aerospace Engineering, Social Psychology
- Kyler Wilson
 - 2nd Year: Anthropology, Pre-Medicine







Recommendations

• Provide resources on healthy masculinity

• Programming for *men as men*

Challenge your own patriarchal views

 Engage in critical dialogue with Black men on manhood and masculinities