Research Spotlight

2340 - Developing Community Interventions within PWI Advising Departments for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) Transfer Students

Diversity and Inclusion, Special Populations

With nationwide calls for racial justice, universities need to support BIPOC transfer students by examining practices that are steeped in White supremacy. We assessed how to enhance advising departments because of their crucial role in establishing a sense of belonging for BIPOC transfer students. Community college and university students participated in this mixed-method study. Our results give insight into how BIPOC transfer students can be further supported during the transfer process.

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Portland State University, Student Partners for Anti-Racist Advising (SPARA)
DEVELOPING COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS WITHIN PWI ADVISING DEPARTMENTS FOR BIPOC TRANSFER STUDENTS

Tiara Freeman & Tsionah Novick
These two issues are compounded for BIPOC students at a PWI (Lee, 2018)

Black PSU student’s ability to navigate the university affects their experience (Jackson, 2017)

Transfer or campus culture shock impacts students ability to navigate a new University (Daddona, 2019; Dennis, 2008)

Sense of belonging is important for retention of all students (O’Keefe, 2013)
What support, resources and information do BIPOC transfer students need to successfully transition?
POSITIONALITY

- Transfer Students
- Intersecting Identities
- Returning Students
- Undergrad Researchers
METHODS

Mixed-Method Surveys

- Two surveys: Portland State University and Portland Community College
- 2 week recruitment period
- Gift card incentive from PSU Diversity Grant

Focus Groups

- Goal: generate action ideas
- 2 one-hour long focus groups
- Mixed participants from PCC and PSU
PARTICIPANT IDENTITIES

- **Multi-Racial**: 31.5%
- **LatinX**: 31.2%
- **Asian**: 18.2%
- **Black**: 14.2%
- **Middle Eastern**: 5%

n = 62

- "I'm a first generation student"
- "I'm a disabled student"
- "I'm an out of state student"
- "I am half Mexican, half Nicaraguan"
- "I'm a first generation student"
- "I am a Black Indigenous woman of color"
- "I'm a Latinx student, I'm a first-generation student"
Usefulness of Advisors During the Transfer Process

- Extremely Helpful: 30%
- Somewhat Helpful: 40%
- Neutral: 17.5%
- Somewhat Unhelpful: 5%
- Extremely Unhelpful: 7.5%
"I just had so many questions during all these processes that I couldn't get any 1 on 1 help either through academic advisors or career centers because when I didn't know who to ask, so I kind of just relied on myself to figure it out."
"I would prefer to meet with a BIPOC advisor."

- Strongly Agree: 32.5%
- Agree: 32.5%
- Neither Agree or Disagree: 27.5%
- Strongly Disagree: 5%

"Advising & Career Services are Designed with Me in Mind"

- Strongly Agree: 5%
- Agree: 17.5%
- Neither Agree or Disagree: 42.5%
- Strongly Disagree: 20%
- Disagree: 15%
ACCESSIBILITY

“BIPOC students are here, they need the support, and they need support that's different than white students.”
BUILD GENUINE RELATIONSHIPS

"Sometimes it just takes one person to reach out to you and like, make you feel like you belong"
-Anonymous Focus Group Participant
Action: BIPOC Transfer Panel

- PAR Approach
- 4 alumni panelists were recruited from study participants
- 5 advising pathways represented
- 11 resource centers represented
A Quick Guide to Campus Resources

This resource guide is meant to provide a little more insight into where to go for what.

See page 2 for expansion on resource centers marked with a ★.
Details of specific resource centers

**Transfer & Returning Student Center**
- Advising for future transfer students and students returning after a break
- Events designed for transfer and returning students
- Peer Connection Network
- Help finding resources
- Community space
  
  [https://www.pdx.edu/transfer-center/](https://www.pdx.edu/transfer-center/)

**University Career Center**
PSU Career Services strives to empower students and alumni to explore, develop, and achieve their career goals through:
- Career counseling
- Internship exploration
- Job and grad school search
  
  [https://www.pdx.edu/career/](https://www.pdx.edu/career/)

**Student Health & Counseling Services (SHAC)**
SHAC is committed to creating and maintaining a health and counseling center where all people of diverse backgrounds and identities can expect to be valued and treated with respect and dignity.
- BPOC counselors and culturally specific group therapy is available.
  
  [https://www.pdx.edu/health-counseling/](https://www.pdx.edu/health-counseling/)

**TRIO Student Support Services**
- Scholarships
- Advising & early registration
- Graduate/professional school assistance
- FAFSA & scholarships assistance
- Tutoring 24/7 for free
- Study groups and social events
  
  [https://www.pdx.edu/trio-student-support](https://www.pdx.edu/trio-student-support)

**Women’s Resource Center**
- Personal, professional, and academic development of students
- Support services
- Leadership opportunities
- Creates events
- Learn and celebrate feminist identities
  
  [https://www.pdx.edu/womens-resource-center](https://www.pdx.edu/womens-resource-center)

**Multicultural Retention Center**
- Diversity Scholars Program
- Multicultural Advising Services
- EMPOWER Program
- Gaining Awareness and Networking for Academic Success (GANAS) Program
- Nations Program
  
  [https://www.pdx.edu/cultural-resource-center/multicultural-student-center](https://www.pdx.edu/cultural-resource-center/multicultural-student-center)

**Pacific Islander, Asian, & Asian American Student Center**
The PIAAA Student Center offers:
- Identity based programming
- Computer lab with free printing
- Kitchen area (sink, microwave, and fridge)
- Student employment and volunteer opportunities
  

**Native American Community Center**
- Provides advising, counseling, advocacy
- Provides referral to appropriate student services
- Conducts Annual Financial Aid and Scholarship workshops
- Provides leadership development opportunities and guidance to NAIA/N students
  

**La Casa Latina Student Center**
The Center serves Latinx students and their allies who come together to:
- Build and connect with community
- Develop leadership skills
- Empower their individual and collective identities
- Participate in services that support academic success
  

**Pan-African Commons**
The Pan-African Commons cultivates cultural, personal, academic, and professional development and opportunities through programming and resources.
- Black Student Success Summit
- Black Student Union
  

**Financial Wellness Center**
The Financial Wellness Center gives students resources to help make healthy financial decisions. Meet with a financial coach regarding:
- PSU payment plan
- Tuition & fees
- Budgeting, etc.
  

**Queer Resource Center**
- Queer & Trans Students of Color Resources
- Confidential Advocacy
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Events and student support services
- Academic Coaching
- Queeries Speaker Board and Panels
  
  [https://www.pdx.edu/queer-resource-center](https://www.pdx.edu/queer-resource-center)

**Disability Resource Center**
- Accommodations: Testing, American Sign Language, Alternative Formats, Deadline Extensions, Ergonomic Furniture, Flexible Attendance, Note Taker, Remote/Online Learning, More!
- Adaptive Technology
- Accessible Housing
  
  [https://www.pdx.edu/disability-resource-center](https://www.pdx.edu/disability-resource-center)

**Veteran Resource Center**
The mission of the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) is to connect student veterans, service members and their families with a variety of services which include:
- Career Resources
- Women Veterans’ Resources
- Grants & Scholarships
- Volunteer Opportunities
  
  [https://www.pdx.edu/veteran-resource-center](https://www.pdx.edu/veteran-resource-center)

**Services for Students with Children**
Services for Students with Children offers integrated services that support students’ goals to be effective parents while succeeding in their academic pursuits.
- Jen Sells Child Care Subsidy
- Family Room
- Remote Support
  
  [https://www.pdx.edu/psd/services-with-children](https://www.pdx.edu/psd/services-with-children)
Facilitated Discussion

- How does White Supremacy show up at your Institution?
- What support and tools exist for BIPOC transfer students at your institution?
- What interventions can your institution take to increase a sense of belonging and support BIPOC transfer students?
Thank you!

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