Seven months ago, Halifax Community College launched the Halifax County Freedom to Learn Initiative Male Mentoring Program. Already, the program has made significant progress according to Dr. Ervin V. Griffin, Sr., President and CEO.

The program now operates under the name “The P.R.I.D.E. of Halifax.” P.R.I.D.E. (PReparing Men for Intellectu, AcaDem, & Educational Success) is a high-touch, academic strengthening, leadership and professional development program designed to increase student engagement, retention, graduation, and four-year college transfer rates.

Each student is assigned a Learning Coach who is a single point of contact for all academic or personal needs. P.R.I.D.E. also includes travel funds so learning can be transferred from the classroom and eastern N.C. to actual real-world experiences regionally or in out-of-state regional activities.

P.R.I.D.E. offers many unique features that do not usually find their way into educational improvement programs. Some of these include:

- Workshops—on campus employment training opportunities paid by the grant
- Internships—off-campus employment in professional environments also paid for by the grant faculty development opportunities
- Faculty development opportunities
- Business & Industry field trips

College visits introduce students to a world they’ve never seen before and sparks increased interest in the possibilities for their futures.

After the activities, participants evaluate their experiences and follow up with the contacts.

“We still have a lot of work to do, even though a lot has already been accomplished,” says Griffin. To participate, men must complete an application, needs assessments, an orientation, and sign a P.R.I.D.E. contract. Thus far, Griffin reports, “we have received 150 plus applications, placed 34 students in on and off-campus employment, identified 35 professional mentors, held a four-year college fair, created a website, sponsored a men to men summit with nearly 600 guests, established community advisory and steering committees, sponsored three college visits, presented the program at one in-state and two out-of-state forums, held 15 professional development workshops, attended 19 community events, participated in 14 professional development activities, and worked with GED students.

What these young men need now is more confidence, opportunity, community compassion and support.” The P.R.I.D.E. of Halifax Community College will endeavor to instill confidence, provide diverse opportunities, and engender community compassion and support for all of the students in our Male Mentoring Program.

Faculty Development

The Freedom to Learn Initiative, unlike many student success programs, includes a faculty development component to help faculty adapt teaching and instructional strategies to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse student body. P.R.I.D.E. provides resources for faculty and administrators to travel to professional development conferences and workshops that promote deeper understanding of the impact culture has on behavior, learning and teaching styles, and instructional strategies.
While many institutions are merely discussing African-American male improvement strategies, HCC has already acknowledged, embraced and established an AFAM success strategy.

Halifax Community College has emerged as a trailblazer among community and four-year colleges because of its commitment to student success. HCC has further distinguished itself by receiving federal funds to launch a college-success program for all HCC men. While P.R.I.D.E is open to all men, the program places greater emphasis on improving performance and success rates of African-American males (AFAM). According to the Journal of Higher Education, 2003, the college success rates for AFAM lags significantly behind almost all other races as well as women. Thus, change is greatly needed. So, while many institutions are merely discussing AFAM improvement strategies, HCC has already acknowledged, embraced and established an AFAM success strategy.

The P.R.I.D.E of Halifax is one of the newest student success programs on campus. It is also designed to enhance leadership, retention, graduation, and four-year college transfer rates.

We welcome all HCC men to join the P.R.I.D.E program and take advantage of our full range of services, including a Learning Coach (first point of contact for matters), financial aid, paid work opportunities, transfer counseling, mentoring, tutoring, lap top loans, and much, much more.

Stop by to see us today.

Daniel J. Lovett
Program Director

P.R.I.D.E participants generally complete an on-campus workshop to prepare themselves for their internships. Supervisors in both programs serve as mentors to students and provide professional development training aimed at ensuring job readiness.

College visits are designed to familiarize students with key campus personnel at their four-year college choice. During the visits, students meet with academic departments, financial aid/scholarship officers, and students with similar career paths and interests.

After the visitation programs are completed, P.R.I.D.E participants discuss their experiences, evaluate their visits, and follow up with the contacts as a component of their professional development activities.

Graduating in the Spring of 2009. One of the goals set and accomplished was to familiarize students with the college transfer/application process.

Many students in the targeted population showed interest in the opportunity to learn how to take control of their own futures by continuing their education.

Although the current number is not known, several students were accepted to a college on that day and within weeks had received their acceptance letters. That in itself made the event a success.

P.R.I.D.E. HBCU Fair

PRIDE sponsored its first four-year College Fair on February 25, 2009. On that day, representatives from various North Carolina Universities were present to assist students in choosing the college that is right for them.
Learning Coaches

Research has shown that students often decide within their first six to eight weeks whether they will continue their college education. P.R.I.D.E Learning Coaches (LCs) are assigned to students to assist with identifying strengths, weaknesses, and personal assets, develop a comprehensive college preparation plan, and monitor progress throughout the academic year.

Learning Coaches are cross-trained in the various campus policies, procedures, and resources in order to act as a single point of contact for information during the transitional periods in each student’s college life. The LC position combines four overlapping activities: class placement, tutorial assistance, academic advising, and support services. LCs also provide critical face-to-face assistance with registration, financial aid, workshop/internship, class withdrawal processes and linkages to other campus mentoring, student activities, and counseling opportunities. Regardless of prior academic performance, all MEN are invited to join us today and make a difference in your life!

Mentoring Offers Unique Advantages

Research tells us that men raised in homes without a male parent often experience more problems than those where the family unit is intact. In order for some of the male students to be successful, they will require positive male role models to share their wealth of life experiences and to help them work through solutions to the many problems that can hinder their college and personal success.

Becoming a P.R.I.D.E. mentor will help bridge this gap. Mentors share their personal stories, work experiences, knowledge, and skills. Mentoring gives students an opportunity to converse with someone who is a non-judgmental. A mentor can also be a friend in a safe and secure environment.

We are reaching out to all interested community members in mentoring our men! We need people who can motivate, empower, and coach our men to reach their potential and become the best they can be.

If you can devote 30 minutes to an hour a week (in person, telephone, text, or email) contact us today!

Community Involvement

One of the goals of the P.R.I.D.E. program is to involve the community in the success of our men. We have done this through the creation of internship opportunities, which allow participants who qualify to get on-the-job training from an industry related to their particular area of interest. These internships are done at organizations located throughout the community.

In addition, our participants are encouraged to attend community events where they can get involved while being enriched. Two such recent events were the Exodus for Youth 17th annual Lake Day at Lake Gaston and a tribute to Julius Chambers (a prominent lawyer and civil rights activist) in Chapel Hill, N.C. If you know of an upcoming event that would be beneficial to our men and/or the community, please contact us.

PRIDE members and staff with Judge Brenda Branch in Chapel Hill
The P.R.I.D.E. of Halifax Male Mentoring Program
A Freedom to Learn Initiative
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Stevie Lawrence, Learning Coach
I am personally committed to assist students participating in the PRIDE program in as many ways possible to enhance their experience at HCC. It is important that students can identify a person or team of individuals who can help them work through the dilemmas that many times restrict students from reaching their educational goals.

Marcus Lewis, Learning Coach
The PRIDE Male Mentoring Program offers an excellent opportunity to men in an effort to help them achieve their goals and aspirations. Being from the area, I am dedicated to making a difference and to helping to change perceptions that are commonly attached to the underrepresented population of men in this area.

For more information, contact the following:
Stevie Lawrence: Internships, Workships x7281
Marcus Lewis: Recruitment, Academic Services x6359
Dana Scott: Administrative Matters x5464
Calvin Stansbury: Mentoring, Tutoring x6282
Daniel Lovett: General Operations & Management x7275

P.R.I.D.E. Staff Close Up
Top row left to right: Daniel Lovett, Project Director and Stevie Lawrence, Learning Coach
Bottom row left to right: Dana Scott, Administrative assistant and Marcus Lewis, Learning Coach

Come On In!!!!!