

## **DESCRIPTION OF AASSD COLLEGE MENTORING**

During SY 14-15, the African American Student Services Department (AASSD) partnered with several organizations to provide college student mentoring.

**Description:** The District shall collaborate with local colleges and universities and identify college students, including District alumni, to provide learning support and guidance to African American students through mentoring, teaching assistance and other methods. As part of the AASSD plan to provide learning support and guidance to African American students by college students, AASSD worked closely with local organizations to recruit college students as mentors/volunteers.

**Process:** The African American Student Services Department implements several types of mentoring opportunities in SY 14-15: 1) 1:1 and 2) small group and large group workshops. The purpose of the mentoring partnerships was to build positive relationships with organizations to support academic, cultural, and social experiences for students. The purpose of these relationships are twofold: 1) To serve as a conduit for connecting students, families and schools with community resources, and 2) To increase the number of positive role models students are able to connect with, and to learn about careers, leadership skills, and college prep. The 1:1 mentoring support was provided by department staff, community members and University of Arizona students. The job description for department specialist was changed from instruction specialists during the SY 13-14 to student success specialist during SY 14-15. The new job title included a focus on student mentoring and mentor supports.

### **Experience:**

In the 2014 – 2015 school year, the African American Student Services Department (AASSD) collaborated with Pima Community College, the University of Arizona, members of the community and other organizations to provide support and guidance to African American students through mentoring and other methods. The AASSD, and Student Services, also partnered with the Tucson Magnet High School Black Culture Club to host a tour of Historical Black Colleges and Universities, collaborated with the TUSD counseling department for events focused on connecting African American students to college students and alumni, and provided scholarship information through the counseling department.

In the 2014 – 2015 school year, AASSD collaborated with the TUSD counseling department and college and career readiness coordinators for several

events focused on college and career readiness. In September, 2014 the counseling office provided information on the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual College Night to our department. We then shared this information electronically with parents and community members. Approximately 500 parents had an email address on file during the 14-15 school year. In October, 2014, the AASSD coordinated the annual Parent University event in collaboration with TUSD departments (i.e., counseling, Title 1, magnet). The purpose of the Parent University was to Increase parent and community engagement, and increase parent understanding of the connection between academic success and college planning.

In SY 2014-15, AASSD worked with the HS College and Career Readiness Coordinators to extend the current efforts, establish internship programs for U of A students to work in AASSD and share scholarship information for HS Seniors on department websites, and encourage more TUSD graduates and retired employees to engage as mentors with college experiences. In the 2014 -2015 school year, AASSD partnered with the University of Arizona Africana Studies Program and Project SOAR to recruit students as mentors and interns. Project SOAR provided mentoring support at Mansfeld MS, Doolen MS and Secrist MS. The mentors began supporting students in the fall of 2014. The Africana Studies Internship program began in January of 2015 giving 4 college students an opportunity to work alongside Student Success Specialists. Participating mentors and interns completed an orientation and fingerprinting. As part of the orientation, interns learned about procedures when working with students and when to report concerns. Project SOAR mentors completed training through the U of A College of Education. Once appropriate paperwork was completed, site administrators and Student Success Specialists were informed that students would be working on their campus.

On October 25, 2014, we partnered with Pima Community College for the Annual Parent University. Several of the Parent University workshops included current college students that shared their experience as college athletes and the college experience. On December, 6, 2014, AASSD partnered with the State of Black Arizona to host the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual STEM Summit for middle school students. Approximately 70 students attended the summit. Students interacted with engineers from Raytheon Missile Systems and members of the University of Arizona National Society of Black Engineers college chapter. On February 13, 2015 AASSD partnered with the Southern Arizona Black College Community Support Group (SABCCSG) to host the 7th Annual African American Youth Heritage Day. At the heritage day, over 300 students connected with individuals working in different careers including STEM careers. In addition to the different college exposure events, AASSD partnered with the National Society of Black Engineers graduate chapter to host monthly workshops at Doolen and Mansfeld middle schools.

## **College Tours**

The AASSD shared information with parents and the community about the Southern Arizona Black College Community Support Group (SABCCSG) middle school Black College Tour. As a result, 8 TUSD middle school students from 4 different middle and K-8 schools attended the tour. Students visited Howard University, Morgan State University and Bowie State University. The Director of African American Student Services served as a volunteer on the tour. The AASSD also partnered with the Tucson Magnet High School Black Culture Club to send students on a tour for high school students. The students visited many black colleges including Morgan State, Albany State and Tuskegee University.

## **College and Career Ready Partners**

The AASSD college and career readiness exposure and mentoring partners include the following: Pima Community College, University of Arizona Project SOAR, University of Arizona Africana Studies, University of Arizona Academic Outreach Office, TUSD Counseling Office, TMHS Black Culture Club, National Society of Black Engineers graduate and undergraduate chapters, Southern Arizona Black College Community Support Group and The State of Black Arizona.

Partnerships in SY 14-15:

- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity (scholars luncheon)
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (monthly workshops at Tucson High)
- Goodwill Industries (mentoring)
- Links Organization (mentor and provide academic support at Cragin ES)
- National Society for Black Engineers (bi-weekly STEM at Doolen MS and Mansfeld MS)
- Pima Community College – West Campus (Parent University)
- Pima Community College – Grants Office
- Southern Arizona Black College Community Support Group (Heritage Day, college planning and middle school Black College Tour)
- Tucson High Black Culture Club – Black College Tour
- University of Arizona – Africana Studies Program Internship
- University of Arizona – Academic Outreach Office
- University of Arizona – African American Student Affairs
- University of Arizona – Project SOAR (Doolen, Mansfeld and Magee MS)