



Actually, That *Does* Compute:

Steps to Success in Graduate School

Presented by
Jeff Harlig
IU School of Social Work

What Do We Know?

- Persistence for black students can be tough at a PWI (predominantly white institution)
- Funding is critical
- Learning the system is critical
- Mentoring is critical

Keys to Retention — External

- Mentoring by supportive professors and staff
- Support from black peers
- Respect from professors
- Continued funding

(Johnson-Bailey, 2004)

Keys to Retention — Personal

- Leadership opportunities
- Community service
- Mentoring others

Leadership, support & social networks at Indiana University

The collage displays four distinct web pages from Black student organizations at Indiana University. The top-left page is the Indiana University Black Student Union website, featuring a navigation menu with links like Home, Members, Executive Board, Calendar, Upcoming Events, Special Opportunities, and Black Student Organizations. It includes a congratulatory message for the 2006-2007 Executive Board and a quote by Frederick Douglass. The top-right page is the Black Graduate Student Association (BGSAs) website, welcoming visitors and providing information about the association portal. The bottom-left page is the Black MBA Association website, detailing the organization's mission to provide professional development and networking opportunities for Black MBA students. The bottom-right page is the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center website, featuring a photo of the center and a mission statement focused on providing quality educational, cultural, and social programs.

Greek-letter Organizations

- Alpha Phi Alpha
- Delta Sigma Theta
- Kappa Alpha Psi
- Iota Phi Theta
- Omega Psi Phi
- Phi Beta Sigma
- Sigma Gamma Rho
- Zeta Phi Beta

Field-specific Organizations

- Black MBA Association
- Black Law Student Association
- MESA - Multicultural Education Student Association

Other Black Organizations

- Black Scholars Collective
- Black Graduate Student Association
- Blacks Like Us (GLBT)
- Brother to Brother (IUPUI, K-12 mentoring)
- African Students Association (grad and undergrad, U.S. citizens and other nations)

AGEP

- Through University Graduate School

Biculturalism

“The greater the degree of biculturalism exhibited, the greater the [level of] adjustment of minority students to the culture of a predominantly White college or university.”

(Braxton, 2003)

Be Bicultural!

- You have two wardrobes:
 - Take what's beneficial from the dominant culture and “wear” it when the occasion calls for it.
 - With the folks who knew you back in the day, wear your comfortable clothes
- Underneath, you are still who you've always been

Here's a well-kept secret...



White People *Can* Help You!

(Though they might be a little annoying while they're doing it....)

A Challenge

- Identify and use your support network
- Continue to develop your consciousness as an African American
- And then
- Just be YOU for a little while every day