INTRODUCTION

The Black Resource Center (BRC) is a Campus Community Center which serves the entire population of UC San Diego while emphasizing the Black experience. Creating campus collaborations and establishing partnerships (on and off campus) are major initiatives for this inaugural year. As a unit which emphasizes the recruitment, yield, retention and graduation of historically underrepresented students, programming in the BRC strives to promote scholarship, foster leadership and cultivate community.

PSYCHOSOCIAL WELL-BEING

Campus Black Forum: October 2013

The Campus Black Forum (CBF) series is a collaboration with Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). The discussion series, led by Dr. Doriane Besson (Black Resource Center’s CAPS liaison), highlights relevant topics for college-aged students through the lens of the Black experience. Participants discuss and explore a variety of topics such as: effective stress relief strategies, interpersonal communication and relationship dynamics. The CBF provides a safe space for students to air concerns and access professional advice relative to their psychosocial well-being.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

Open House: September 2013

This “Welcome Week” event served as the opening for the Black Resource Center. More than 115 people (undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty & staff members) attended the Open House. Various campus resources/partners attended and displayed information about their resources, programs and events, etc. This event provided an opportunity for incoming and continuing students to meet someone new, exchange contact information and familiarize themselves with the campus resources.

Recurring Event – Week 2 through Week 10

The Black Resource Center hosted two OASIS workshops (Language & Writing and Math & Science). The presence of these workshops emphasized the scholarship pillar of the Black Resource Center mission. This collaboration with OASIS represents a larger initiative to offer academic support services within the Black Resource Center.

OUTREACH, YIELD AND RETENTION

Grossmont College Visit: November 2013

This outreach interaction represents the BRC’s dedication to the pipeline of students transferring to UC San Diego from community colleges. Coordinators from Grossmont College contacted the BRC prior to their campus visit to request a student panel which would be representative of their group (historically underrepresented students). These types of events present both an opportunity for prospective students to learn more about student life at UC San Diego and present an opportunity for leadership development for current students.

LA High School Visits: March 2014

The Black Resource Center joined an existing collaboration with Undergraduate Admissions, Financial Aid & Scholarships and faculty from Biological Sciences to foster relationships with 3 Los Angeles area high schools. These high schools (Bravo Medical Magnet, King Drew High School, and California Academy of Math & Science (CAMS)), enroll a large population of historically underrepresented students. In late March, the BRC Director visited these schools to meet with admitted students. This was the second of 2 visits for the academic year to these high school sites. The next scheduled visit is Fall 2014.
Quarterly Report: Fall 2013 and Winter 2014

INCLUSION, COMMUNITY AND BELONGING

Study Jam with OASIS Tutors: December 2013

In collaboration with OASIS, the Black Resource Center offered tutors to assist students in preparing for exams during finals week. The tutors, trained and employed through OASIS, consulted with students who studied in the BRC over a 3 hour time-period during Finals Week. Tutors covered more challenging subjects including BILD 1, Phys 1/2 ABC, Math 3C, 4C, 10/20 ABC, Chem 4, 6 ABC, 140 ABC, BICD 100. These courses have been seen as “weed-out” courses for lower-division students. Efforts such as this will help address the needs of historically underrepresented students who are performing poorly in these courses.

Re-establishment of Black Greek Letter Organizations: January 2014

Through a partnership with Greek Life, the Black Resource Center is working diligently to help re-establish historically Black Greek Letter Organizations (BGLOs). Three organizations within the National Pan Hellenic Council (NPHC) expressed interest in reviving or establishing membership for their organization on the campus of UC San Diego. Prospective students frequently ask about the existence of NPHC or BGLOs on our campus. Re-establishment of these organizations can be both a recruitment tool and a retention tool as they provide additional opportunities for student engagement and leadership development.

Outreach to San Diego County Religious Organizations: February 2014

The Black Resource Center partnered with Undergraduate Admissions, Financial Aid & Scholarship and CalSOAP to reach out to San Diego county pastors of Black/African American churches. The premise of this interaction is to better equip pastors and religious organizations in preparing their youth to attend UC San Diego upon graduation from high school or through a transfer relationship from community college. The ultimate goal is to create a stronger pipeline of historically underrepresented youth from San Diego county who are admissible at UC San Diego. Approximately 25 pastors attended the February event.

TEACHING, TRAINING AND CONSULTING

Guest Lecturer at San Diego State University: March 2014

The Campus Community Centers Directors received an invitation to teach the Critical Leadership Issues in Student Affairs at San Diego State University. The discussion topic, “Living out a Commitment to Inclusive Campus Communities”, engaged second year master’s level students in an interactive dialogue about effective ways to create community on campus. The directors of the Black Resource Center and the Women’s Center were guest lecturers.