Leadership and Career Development for African-American Students Program

Improving the educational success of African American students continues to be an elusive goal for community colleges. Not only are they not completing degrees and transferring at rates equitable to other students, they are not being prepared to enter leadership roles in business, government, and education for the next century's work force. Rancho Santiago College will address this systemwide problem by developing a leadership and career planning program for African American students that will provide role models and specific information that will enhance their ability to succeed in college and the "real world."

Fifty African American students will participate in a series of seminars. Five seminars led by local African American business leaders will investigate career options, career preparation and strategies for overcoming barriers to the occupations that will be in most demand in the future. A sixth seminar will feature educational leaders and focus on the transfer process.

Ten African American RSC faculty and staff will mentor five students each through this program. Assistance in identifying majors and careers, referrals to additional support services and follow-up will also be part of the program.

To enable institutionalization of the program, the project developers will design an interdisciplinary course that incorporates the strategies and activities of the project that had significant impact on student outcomes.

This course curriculum and an evaluation of the program will be disseminated to all directors of EOPS, and to members of the Minority Task Force of the California Community College Counselor's Association.

$14,488 is requested for this project.