



Moving the Needle Impact Brief: Marginalized Males Workforce and Education Consortium

Moving the Needle (MTN) is a multi-year strategic plan that builds on WRF's more than 35 year commitment to improve the lives of Arkansans in three interrelated areas—economic, racial, and social justice; economic development; and education.



Our ultimate goal is to move from being among the nation's bottom five in economic and education indicators to becoming one of the nation's highest ranking states in measures of family and child well-being. To accomplish this, WRF has adopted four strategic plan goals:

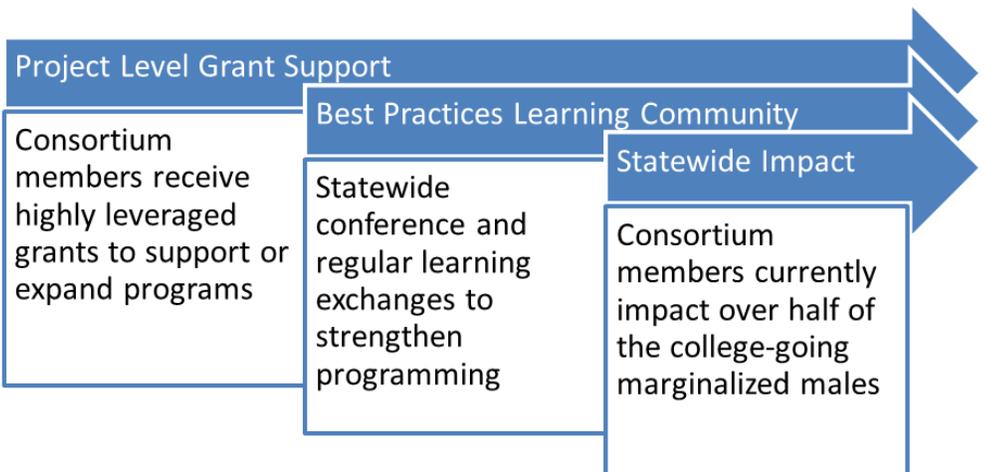
- Reduce the number of families living below 200 percent of the federal poverty line
- Increase high school, vocational, and college graduation rates in the state
- Increase educational attainment and economic mobility in select communities in Arkansas
- Build Arkansas nonprofit infrastructure

INCREASING EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN THE STATE HINGES UPON BETTER OUTCOMES FOR MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS

The Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation's investments in the Marginalized Males Workforce and Education Consortium are creating a seamless pipeline of support from communities to college campuses for African American, Latino, and low-income males across the state. The Consortium currently consists of six higher education institutions and five community-based organizations.



Higher Education Institutions	Community-Based Organizations
University of Arkansas at Little Rock Henderson State University Pulaski Technical College Arkansas State University-Jonesboro Philander Smith College Arkansas Baptist College	CityYouth Ministries (Jonesboro) Boys and Girls Club of Central Arkansas (Little Rock) STAND Foundation (Statewide) Positive Atmosphere Reaches Kids (Little Rock) Pfiefer Kiwanis Camp (Little Rock) Life Skills for Youth (Little Rock)



GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT : UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK— AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE INITIATIVE

The African American Male Initiative (AAMI) is a student success program housed at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR). The program was developed to address a concern over the low rate of retention held by African American males, who fall at the lowest tier demographically. The program empowers, supports, and assists African American male students with retention and graduation at UALR. The program aims to motivate student success by providing peer, faculty, and administrative mentorship. In addition, AAMI provides academic and personal success workshops geared towards helping participants navigate the challenges associated with matriculating out of college as graduates.

Data from the past three years shows that:

- AAMI participants, in the 2009 entering class, were retained at a 50 percent greater rate than African American male non-participants over a four semester period
- AAMI participants, in the 2010 entering class were retained at a 25 percent greater rate over a three semester period, despite having a lower average ACT composite than non-participants
- Mean grade point averages, for the 2009 and 2010 AAMI entering classes, were more than half a point higher than the same year non-participants
- AAMI participants who enrolled in developmental coursework were more likely to complete their developmental requirements in the first semester

WRF’s strategy for supporting marginalized males has shown impact across each of our partner institutions.

CHALLENGES

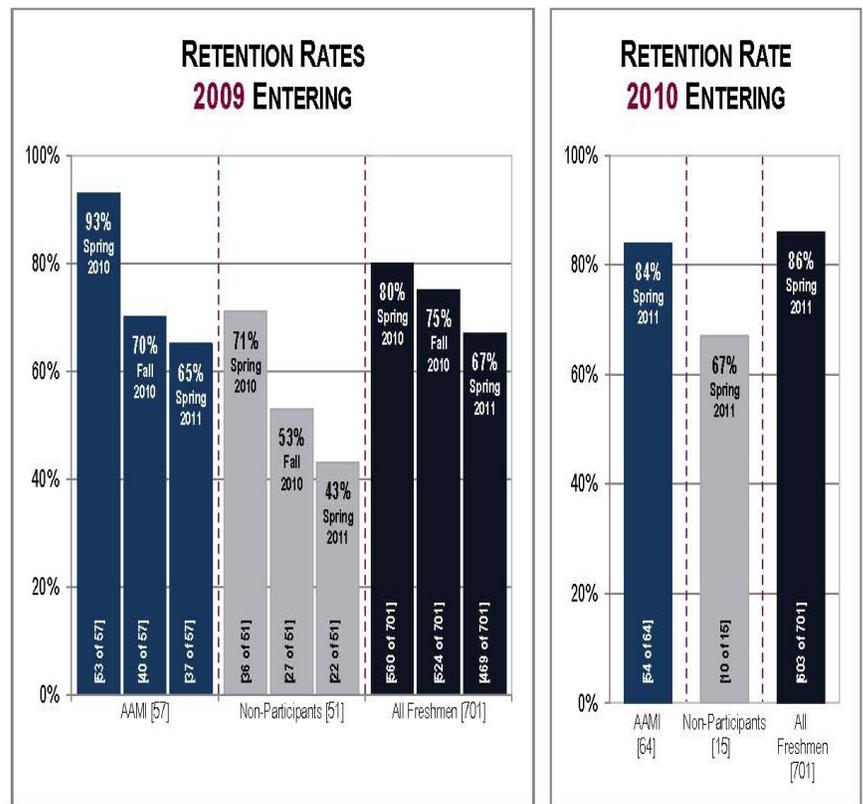
- Building statewide policy commitment to marginalized males
- Organizational resources
- Taking individual programs to scale

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED

- Targeted interventions are successful
- Social connections are critical for marginalized students
- Mentoring relationships add value

WHAT’S NEXT

- Strengthening the Consortium as a learning community
- Aggregating impact across all participating institutions and projecting statewide impact
- Developing a cohesive set of higher education policy recommendations based on Consortium learning



Source: www.ualr.edu/aami