

Why a Census of African American CEOs in Community Colleges?

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The community college plays a critical role in expanding and increasing educational achievement in America. It's very important that African Americans have significant and growing leadership participation in a movement which has enormous impact on minorities in this country. There are at least three reasons why a census is necessary. First and foremost, a census provides a benchmark for judging progress in this area. There's no way to judge progress or the lack of it unless an objective benchmark or count is established. Secondly the census is a way of recognizing and celebrating admirable accomplishments. African American CEOs, like majority CEOs, are well educated, talented and committed to the community college mission. Such achievement is one of the promises of the community college philosophy-upward mobility through education. Also such achievement, of course, spurs further achievement and provides worthy role models throughout the land. Finally the census identifies areas of need or deficiency. The state by state analysis provides focus on where the African American presence is needed if the leadership in community colleges is to also be representative of its clientele. With so many African Americans getting their start at community colleges, more African American participation in leadership is practical and desirable. It's also true that the community college will need every qualified person it can get because of declining sources of personnel.

Thus the census is a partial response to all the reasons mentioned and hopefully African Americans can play an even larger leadership role.

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