

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Fourth Annual National Conference (1999)

People of Color in Predominantly White
Institutions

October 1999

The Minority Mentor Program: The Value of Experiential Learning and Successful Mentoring Workshops

Trent Ball

Southeast Missouri State University

Danielle Carter

Southeast Missouri State University

D'Ante DuCasse

Southeast Missouri State University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/pocpw4>



Part of the [Race, Ethnicity and Post-Colonial Studies Commons](#)

Ball, Trent; Carter, Danielle; and DuCasse, D'Ante, "The Minority Mentor Program: The Value of Experiential Learning and Successful Mentoring Workshops" (1999). *Fourth Annual National Conference (1999)*. 18.

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/pocpw4/18>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the People of Color in Predominantly White Institutions at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Fourth Annual National Conference (1999) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

The Minority Mentor Program: The Value of Experiential Learning and Successful Mentoring Workshops

Trent Ball

Southeast Missouri State University

Danielle Carter

Southeast Missouri State University

D'Ante DeCasse

Southeast Missouri State University

“The session has been designed in a forum and interactive format, which will allow the participants to share knowledge, information and perspectives on developing and assessing mentoring programs.”

This session will focus on the importance of mentoring programs as positive tools for the development and nurturing of academically and socially successful minority students. Our presentation is designed to review the components of mentoring programs, the training of mentors and mentees and the organization of a mentoring program that includes students, faculty, staff and administrators.

The Minority Mentor Program at Southeast Missouri State University has been in existence for five years and has achieved notable success as a recruiting and retention program. We utilize the philosophy that strong mentoring programs will assist students in their transition to college. The Minority Mentoring Program works to improve the experience of the participants by forming partnerships with faculty, professional staff and other students to foster a supportive relationship that supports proper growth and development.

The session will focus on the awareness of university personnel and professionals on the value and worth of mentoring programs as they relate to the recruitment and retention of minority students. We will establish an environment in which issues addressing the development of and continuation of mentoring programs can be evaluated and discussed. The session has been designed in a forum and interactive format, which will allow the participants to share knowledge, information and perspectives on developing and assessing mentoring programs. The final goal of this session is to review and share information with the participants from an existing workshop mentoring program developed on the basis of experiential learning and active mentee participation. Southeast Missouri State University has developed a comprehensive mentoring program for minority students, utilizing the faculty and staff as mentors and redefining the role of student assistant. The Minority Mentor Program provides qualified students with a faculty or professional staff member that serves as a resource person, advisor and advocate. The mentee is placed within the mentor's department, receives training on the functions of the department and a project to be completed each semester.

The Minority Mentor Program is the cornerstone of the programs administered by the Office of Minority Student Programs. The success of the program has helped solidly

support the goals and objectives of the Office and has created a strong positive reputation for the Office across campus. The mission of the Minority Mentor Program and the Office of Minority Student Programs both strongly support the importance of creating opportunity and inclusion on campus for students of color. The program begins by turning positions that were once thought of as student workers into student assistants. The next step is developing job responsibilities that are project driven and developmental provide the hosting office and the student with the opportunity to benefit from participating in the program.

The Minority Mentor Program underscores a concerned effort to enlist any willing university faculty or staff member in a proactive plan to recruit, retain and graduate minority students. The foundation of this program and this workshop is to again highlight the importance of developing all inclusive campus programs. Mentoring programs should address the attainment of a healthy pool of active minority students and the development of those students. Mentoring programs designed with the development of those students. Mentoring programs designed with the development of minority students as a focal point, and not an afterthought, are the key to developing and preparing minority students for the world of work beyond our campuses. This type of successful student development also prepares our campuses for the changes and challenges approaching us as we move higher education and its services forward to serve all our students.

PRESENTERS:

Trent Ball currently serves as the director of the Office of Minority Student Programs at Southeast Missouri State University and also holds the position of adjunct faculty in the College of Education. Ball attended Culver-Stockton College in Northwest Missouri and graduated with a BS degree in 1989. He completed his graduate studies and earned a MA in Psychological Counseling at Southeast Missouri State University in 1994. Ball's professional career in Higher Education began as a Learning Specialist in the Student Support Services TRIO Program at Southeast. He has presented numerous programs at the local, state and regional level on topics ranging from diversity training, advanced counseling skills and the value of mentoring.

Danielle Carter currently serves as assistant coordinator in the Office of Minority Student Programs at Southeast Missouri State University. During her collegiate experiences within Higher Education she has acquired a variety of experiences and knowledge. As an undergraduate, she served as an intern in the Center for Health and Counseling and after graduating with a BS in Social Work in December 1996. In the spring of 1997, she began working as the graduate assistant in the Office of Minority Student Programs. She is completing her graduate studies in Guidance and Counseling with an emphasis in Student Affairs and Practice in Higher Education. Carter has worked as a student advocate, an advisor to student organizations and a mentor to many incoming students.

D'Ante DuCasse is a third year student at Southeast Missouri State University pursuing a degree in Applied Computer Science. Mr. DuCasse has been a mentee in the program since entering the University in 1996 and currently serves as coordinator of the academic study hall program for the mentoring program. In addition to working in his position in

the Office he works as a web page designer and assistant in the Center for Teaching and Learning. DuCasse has worked in a variety of developmental and experiential programs with his peers during his time at Southeast. He has worked with the office on numerous programs and committees and is one of the students working to revise our Peer Mentoring Program for the incoming class of 1999.