



Shifting from the Background:

THE BLACK DOCTORAL STUDENT

Presenters:

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Anita Woods, MA, RMHCI

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Creating a Safe
Environment for
Acceptance

*From heaven the Lord looks
down and sees all mankind;
- Psalm 33:13, NIV*

Demographic Highlights



- 3,422 Total Students Enrolled in CACREP Doctoral Programs
- 45% White
- 21% African American / Black

- CACREP, 2022

- Doctoral Degrees in the U.S.
 - 13% Black
 - Lowest Completion Rate at 47% (Lively, 2022)
 - Online students an additional 10 to 20 percent lower than in-person (Rovai & Wighting, 2005)

General Challenges

- Financial barriers
- Imposter Syndrome
- Isolation
- Loneliness
- Lack of Connectedness
- Lack of Belonging





Specific to African Americans/Blacks

- Hypervisibility
- Stereotype Threats
- Racial Stressors
- Microaggressions
- Expectation
- Pressure

Howard, 2017 ;Vaishnav & Wester, 2023; Wallace, 2022

Benefits of Community

- Cohesion
- Atmosphere of Acceptance
- Feelings of Belonging
- Initiation of Leadership Identity
- Empowerment of Proactivity
- Lower Attrition Rate

(Joseph et al., 2023)



- Extra mental, spiritual, & educational support
- Shared community
- Commonalities
- Increased Motivation
- Increased Inspiration



Benefits for the Black Community

Forming Community

- Faculty Advising
- Group work
- Peer mentoring
- Individual efforts
- Supportive relationships



Seeking the Black Community



- Meeting in Intensives
- Advising Groups
- Discussion Boards
- Fellowship outside of the classroom
- Recognize character traits
- Link with other people who have similar experiences
- Granting permission to be you

She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me."

- Genesis 16:13, NIV

YOU HAVE PERMISSION

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I See You:

THE BLACK DOCTORAL STUDENT

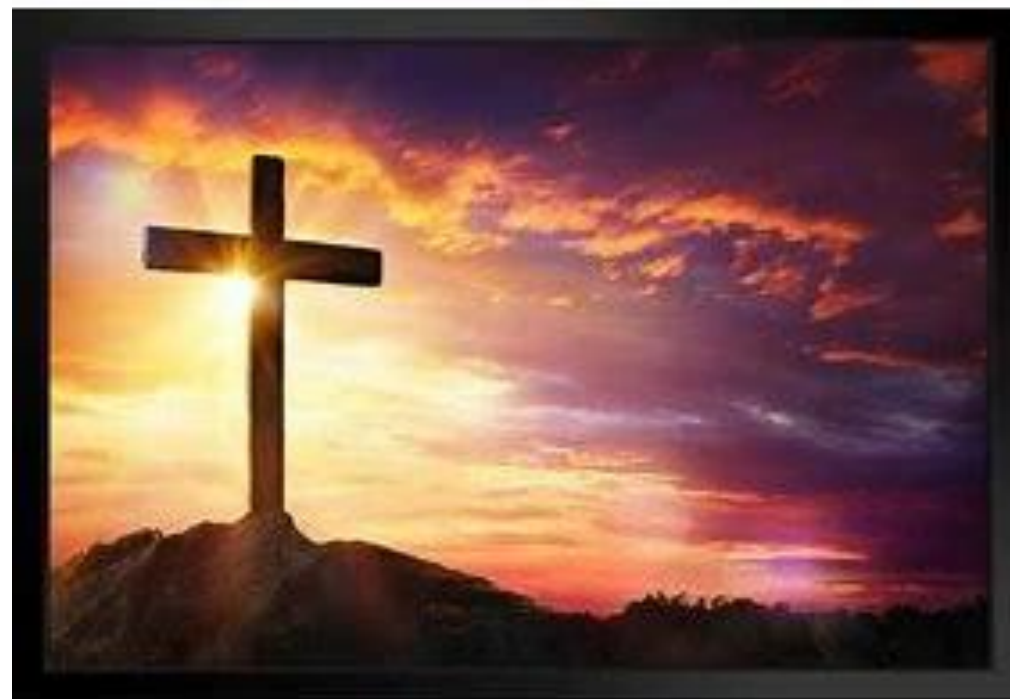
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