THE IMPORTANCE AND BENEFIT OF SUPPORT GROUPS FOR MARGINALIZED STUDENTS

Debbye Lopez-Ramos, LMFT;
Odalis Romero, LMHC, NCC, CCMHC, CCTP, CASDCS
Kisha Heron, LMHC, CASAC-T

Introduction

- While benefits are known to being enrolled in online doctoral programs, there are challenges that have not been fully addressed, in particular within marginalized groups
- Identifying the challenges and barriers for marginalized online doctoral students
- Overcoming challenges and barriers

What are the challenges and barriers faced in marginalized populations ?

- Disconnection (Deacon et al., 2013)

- Increased stressors (Vaid et al., 2021; Slates & Moedano, 2022)

- Accessibility of resources and relationships

- Impact on retention and graduation (Spellman et al., 2022)

Overcoming Challenges and Barriers

- Support groups specifically for marginalized students (DeJoseph & Carosella, 2023)

- Mentorship among peers (Schuman et al., 2021; Slates & Moedano, 2023; DeJoseph et al., 2023)

- Community support

Here are the Benefits…

- Increased sense of belonging and connection (Spellman et al., 2022).

- Increased emotional and physical wellness (Vaid et al., 2021).

- Increased sense of community support.

- Increased retention and graduation rates. (DeDiego et al., 2021)

PITCH

- Want to present to first year doctoral students
- Want marginalize doc students to hear from other doc marginalized students
- Five minute Powerpoint presentation in COUC 715

YOU MATTER: THE IMPORTANCE AND BENEFIT OF SUPPORT GROUPS FOR MARGINALIZED STUDENTS

Debbye Lopez-Ramos, LMFT

Odalis Romero, LMHC, NCC, CCMHC, CCTP, CASDCS

Kisha Heron, LMHC, CASAC-T

Introduction

Benefits of being in online doctoral programs

However…

Identifying the challenges and barriers for marginalized online doctoral students

Overcoming challenges and barriers

Challenges faced as an online doctoral student

- Disconnection

- Increased stressors

- Accessibility to resources and relationships

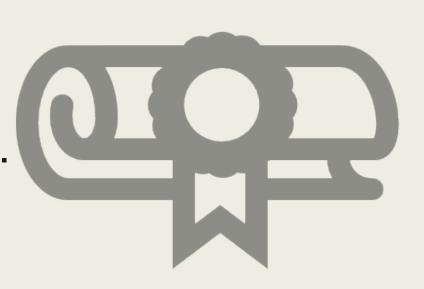- Impact on retention and graduation

Overcoming these challenges and barriers

- Support groups specifically for marginalized students
- Mentorship among peers
- Community support

Your benefits

- Increased sense of belonging and connection.
- Increased emotional and wellness.
- Increased sense community support.
- Increased retention and graduation rates.

Here at Liberty University

Peer to peer mentorship

Faculty advisement

Freedom to create your own community

Contact information

- Debbye Lopez-Ramos, LMFT: dlopez14@liberty.edu

- Odalis Romero, LMHC, NCC, CCMHC, CCTP, CASDCS : oromero4@liberty.edu

- Kisha Heron, LMHC, CASAC-T: knheron@liberty.edu

References

- DeDiego, A. C., Chan, C. D., & Basma, D. (2022). Emerging leaders: Leadership development experiences of counselor education doctoral students. *Counselor Education and Supervision, 61*, 262–275. https://doi.org/10.1002/ceas.12241

- DeJoseph, M. L., Carosella, K. A., & NextGen Lead Mentors (2023, September 11). Diversifying the Academy Through a Peer-to-Peer Mentorship Model: Insights and Recommendations From the NextGen Psych Scholars Program (NPSP). Journal of Diversity in Higher Education. Advance online publication. https://dx.doi.org/10.1037/dhe0000504

- Slates, S. & Moedano, C. (2023). Responding to the Psychosocial Experiences of First-Generation Master of Social Work (MSW) Students. *Journal of First-generation Student Success* 3(1), pages 60 -70.

- Spellman, K., Dillenbeck, J., & Edwards, N., & Bohecker, L. (2021). Supporting Marginalized*Journal of Counselor Leadership and Advocacy. 9*, 32-44. https://doi.org/10.1080/2326716X.2021.2007429

- Vaid, M., Buckles, T., Pritchard, M., Schoenherr, H. (2021). *Survey study of perceived online social support, loneliness, mental illness and marginalization* [Conference Presentation] Idaho Conference on Undergraduate Research, Idaho, United States. https://scholarworks.boisestate.edu/icur/2021/poster_session/108/