

Press Clippings 01/18-21/2020

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---Daily Herald---01/18/2020

Perceptions matter in education

Professor says colleges should look at implicit biases against men of color

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy



J. Luke Wood, a professor of education and associate vice president of faculty diversity and inclusion at San Diego State University, talks about equity in education and the experiences of men of color at community colleges during Elgin Community College's first Men of Color Summit last week.



Students and faculty members from several higher education institutions, including Triton College, Wabaussee Community College and Elgin Community College, listen to keynote speaker J. Luke Wood talk about equity in education and the experiences of men of color at community colleges during a recent summit at ECC



Anthony Gholston Jr, from Triton College, listens to keynote speaker J. Luke Wood during a recent summit on equity in education and the experiences of men of color at community colleges at Elgin Community College



Elgin Community College President David Sam addresses the importance of equity in education during a recent Men of Color summit at the Elgin college.

Words of encouragement from a teacher or a smile of acknowledgment when passing a student in the hallway might seem trivial. But they would have made 12 years of public schooling a lot more welcoming for Kaydon Donald, 18, of Elgin.

Instead, it's the "microaggressions" that stick out in Donald's mind. The subtle slights. The times when teachers perceived black students like him as stupid or lazy for not asking questions or let out exasperated sighs when they did.

Donald, a **Larkin High School** graduate pursuing an associate degree at Elgin Community College, felt teachers prejudged him based on his skin color, “not knowing that I was an articulate dude.”

“I got help different than other students that weren’t of my color, so I had to actually work harder than others,” he said.

Stories of such experiences are widespread among men of color — especially blacks and Latinos — influencing educational outcomes that persist throughout their college and professional careers, says J. Luke Wood, co-director of the Community College Equity Assessment Lab, a national research center collecting data from and training more than 150 schools, colleges and universities nationwide on equity.

“What happens in preschool and kindergarten shapes, oftentimes, experiences that we see in a lot of levels of education,” said Wood, giving a keynote address recently at Elgin Community College’s first Men of Color Summit. “If we want our students to not only go to college but to persist, to achieve, to complete their degree, to transfer and to go into the labor market, we need them to have an experience that affirms them and their very presence in the institution.”

Wood is a professor of education and chief diversity officer for San Diego State University. His research focuses on factors affecting the success of boys and men of color in education. He discussed the challenges and opportunities for men of color on community college campuses and strategies to retain them.

Wood said how teachers engage with a student affects their relationship, how they teach and ultimately whether the student is successful. Yet, most colleges miss the part about training faculty and staff members on perceptions and implicit biases.

According to the center’s research, 52% of black and 58% of Latino males graduate from high school in four years. After graduation, roughly one-third of black and Latino men pursue postsecondary education, while about 34% of blacks and 46% of Latinos are unemployed, 21% of blacks and nearly 14% of Latinos are employed, and nearly 10% of blacks and 5% of Latinos are incarcerated, data shows.

A majority of black and Latino men attending community colleges nationwide are first-generation collegegoers and come from low-income families. Nearly 44% require remedial classes and about 50% attend college part time, data shows.

Wood said the focus must shift from blaming students to placing the onus on schools and colleges to provide intensive interventions to remediate disparities in the results of disproportionately affected groups, such as students of color, former foster youths, and students with disabilities, food and housing insecurities, and former incarceration.

“We do not want to focus on student deficit,” Wood said. “It’s changing that mindset. We have to critically reflect upon our own role in perpetuating these disparities ... and then hold one another accountable for changing it.”

Typical interventions include guided pathway programs, online learning, basic needs assistance, early alert systems to flag when students are failing, promise programs, and student success planning and mentoring.

Ultimately, equity must be at the center of all interventions, Wood said.

For instance, he said, without technology, students cannot access online learning opportunities. And early alert systems notifying students halfway through a semester that they are failing often lead to more dropouts because students feel hopeless.

This fall, Elgin Community College has launched a minority student mentoring program, TRIUMPH – or Transforming and Impacting Undergraduate Men Pursuing Higher Education, which has been successful at Waubensee Community and Triton colleges.

It focuses on increasing the number of men of color graduating college. This year, 13 students are part of the program.

“We’re building them up with soft skills ... those intangible skills that help them be successful,” said Erik Enders, ECC student life coordinator for targeted populations and TRIUMPH adviser.

Students learn time and emotion management, conflict resolution, financial literacy, and how to schedule, set goals, dress properly and communicate with professors. They also learn where to get help for a college paper, tutoring or just to talk about an issue, Enders said.

“Hopefully, in the time of need or challenge ... they will be willing to then take advantage of what’s available to them,” Enders said.

Weather forces U-46 to cancel after-school activities

Daily Herald staff report

Elgin Area School District U-46 has [canceled all after-school activities today](#) because of inclement weather.

Scheduled activities will resume at 9 a.m. Saturday.

The SAFE Program will continue as normal.

SPORTS

---Daily Herald---01/19/2020

Bartlett takes 'crazy' game from Lake Park

By: Orrin Schwarz



Lexie Sinclair, Bartlett

Bartlett junior guard Lexie Sinclair was trying to explain Saturday afternoon's wild girls basketball game against Lake Park.

"We love to have that slow start. We eventually figure it out. I think we just need to come out with energy and," she said, pausing to consider what had just happened. "Oh, I don't even know. That was pretty crazy."

What we do know is Bartlett took a 66-63 victory at the 30th annual Coach Kipp's Hoopsfest at Willowbrook High School in Villa Park, but that doesn't begin to describe it.

To earn the win Bartlett had to overcome a 17-point first-quarter deficit. Then the Hawks watched an 11-point fourth-quarter lead shrink to nothing with just less than a minute to play.

"That was pretty crazy," added Bartlett sophomore guard Mackenzie Hare. "It definitely came down to the wire, which is always fun. We love being in that atmosphere. It was great."

The way Lake Park started the game was pretty great, too. The Lancers got balanced scoring, everything seeming to work as planned.

Meanwhile, the Hawks couldn't get a shot to drop.

"Her and I know that it will fall eventually. For both of our shots. Just gotta keep feeding her. She'll make them eventually," Sinclair said of Hare.

Hare and Sinclair each finished with 27 points. Hare just missed a double-double, grabbing 9 rebounds.

Lake Park jumped out to a 22-5 lead on a Darrione Rogers 3-pointer with 1:09 left in the first quarter, but the Hawks cut into the margin when Hare scored the final 6 points of the second quarter, leaving Lake Park with a 32-25 halftime lead.

Lake Park held tough for most of the third quarter, but things fell apart in the final minutes.

A Sara Balli basket put the Lancers ahead 45-39. The Hawks then scored the final 15 points in the last 2:28 of the period, leading 54-45 after three quarters.

"Their third quarter was unbelievable," Lake Park coach Brian Rupp said. "...We were a second late on everything, it felt."

The Lancers looked tired, like a team that had won an emotional and equally thrilling DuKane Conference game in overtime at Geneva less than 24 hours before.

"Yeah, but that's not an excuse," said Rogers, a DePaul recruit. "Good teams find a way to push through that. Tonight we just didn't come out and defend well or execute, and that's why we lost the game."

The Bartlett lead reached 60-49 after a Hare 3-pointer, one of four she made.

Then it was Lake Park's turn to dig deep and rally. The Lancers went on a 10-1 run to pull within 2 points on a Rogers basket with 2:25 left. They tied the game at 63 with 58.3 seconds to go when Rogers made three free throws.

"Defense," said Rogers, who also contributed 31 points of offense, as well as 9 rebounds and 4 steals. "We started stepping up. We could have definitely done a better job of defending, but it was the defense that turned it around for us."

Sinclair broke the tie by dropping a pair of free throws, and Trinity Reyes added one more with 1.4 seconds left.

"That was a heck of a game," said Bartlett coach Joe Eirich. "I mean, to go up against a talent like Darrione, I mean I hugged her after the game and just told her how awesome she is, how great of a player she is and I can't wait to watch her in the future."