



CalPolyPomona

College of Education
and Integrative Studies

Afrofuturism Lightning Talk Presentation

Radical Community Building to Uplift Black Neurodivergent Scholars

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Problem

- Considered one of the most marginalized groups in Western society, the lives of people with disabilities have been defined by being personally, socially, and institutionally cast-off and discriminated against (Hall, 2005).
- People with learning disabilities experience disproportionate levels of violence and victimization that negatively impact both mental and physical health and general well-being (Wiseman & Watson, 2022).

Solution

- Embody the Nguzo Saba, or the Seven Principles, to celebrate Black excellence and center Black joy.
- Reimagine the college transition journey for neurodivergent Black scholars through radical community building.
- Uphold programming and collaborations designed to deepen understanding of and alignment with the Nguzo Saba and values consistent with the Disability Justice movement (Sins Invalid, 2005).

Process in Solving the Problem

- Align the project with the work of Let's Talk Learning Difference's Intersectionality Working Group.
- Seek funding to cover the operational costs associated with Phase I of the project's implementation.
- Build a synergistic partnering ecosystem that allows us to deploy the requisite human resources in response to the operational and resource curation needs of the project.

Gratitude and Next Steps

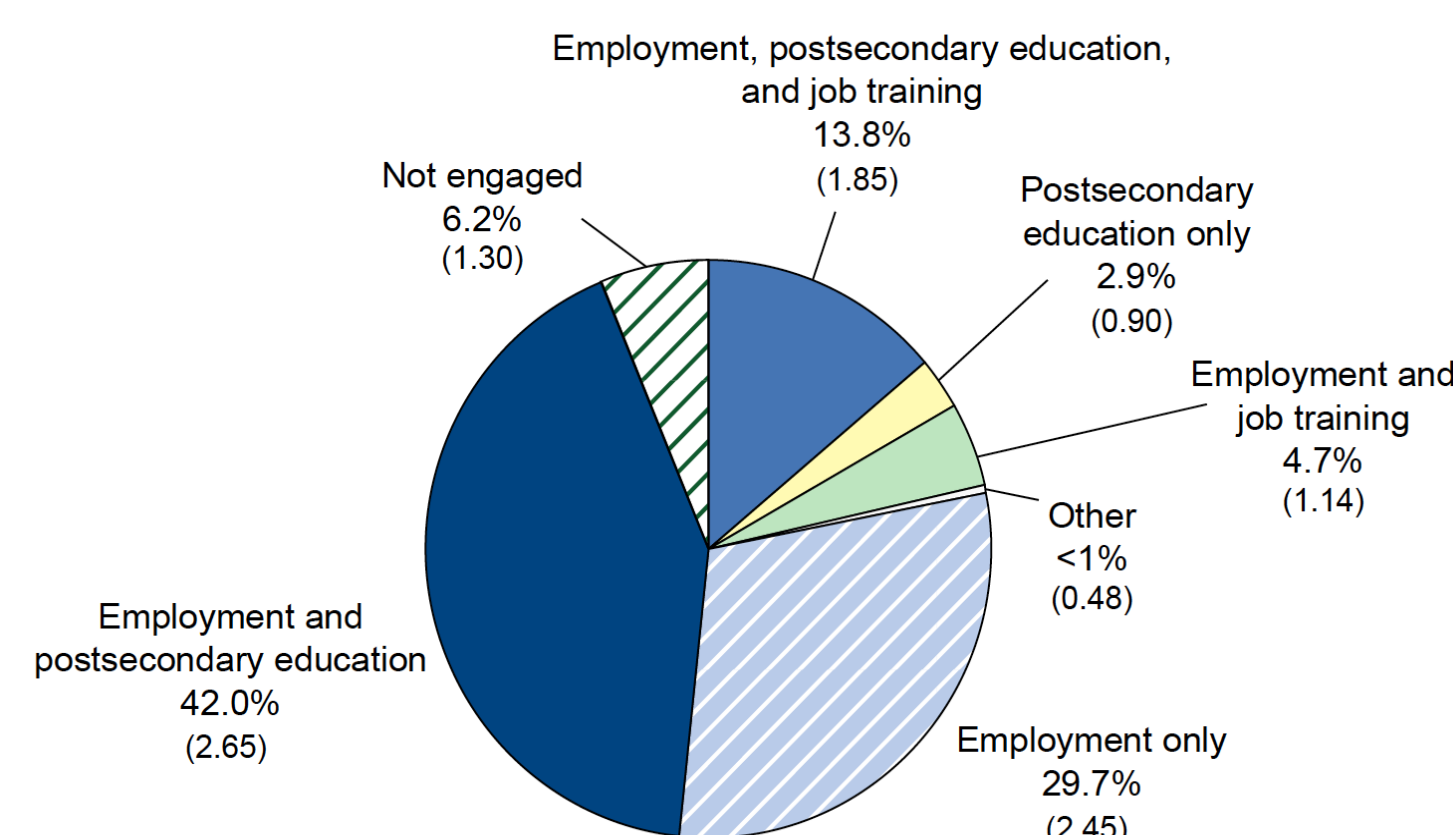
- **RECRUIT** Black neurodivergent activists/self-advocates, scholars, and practitioners to serve as mentors.
- **TARGET** outreach to local school and community college campus-based neurodiversity advocacy groups, as well as community college admissions professionals, disability support services professionals, and school-based college counselors to build a steady pipeline of candidates for the professional training and development element of the project.
- **LEVERAGE** social networks to engage in radical community and coalition building.
- **DEVELOP** a project website which will serve as a central hub for managing content and information about the project's work.

Problem

Considered one of the most marginalized groups in Western society, the lives of people with disabilities have been defined by being personally, socially, and institutionally cast-off and discriminated against (Hall, 2005).

People with learning disabilities experience disproportionate levels of violence and victimization that negatively impact both mental and physical health and general well-being (Wiseman & Watson, 2022).

Modes of engagement of young adults with disabilities since leaving high school



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Special Education Research, National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 (NLTS2), Wave 5 parent interview and youth interview/survey, 2009.

Solution

The project will be centered around the Nguzo Saba, or the Seven Principles of African heritage, to reimagine K-12 college transition planning services and college recruitment, retention, and development for neurodivergent Black scholars. All project programming and collaborations are designed to deepen understanding of and alignment with the Nguzo Saba and embody values consistent with the Disability Justice (Sins Invalid, 2005) movement.



Gratitude and Next Steps

RECRUIT Black neurodivergent activists/self-advocates, scholars, and practitioners to serve as mentors.

TARGET local school and community college campus-based neurodiversity advocacy groups, community college admissions professionals, disability support services professionals, and school-based college counselors to build a steady pipeline of candidates for professional training and development.

LEVERAGE social networks for engagement of RADICAL community and coalition building.

DEVELOP a project website to serve as a central hub for managing content and project information.

Process in Solving the Problem

Project Implementation Priorities:
Phase I

Align the project with the work of the Let's Talk Learning Difference's Intersectionality Working Group.

Seek grant funding to cover the operational costs associated with Phase I of the project's implementation.

Build a synergistic partnering ecosystem that allows us to position the requisite human resources to address the operational and resource curation needs of the project.

