CalPolyPomona | College of Education and Integrative Studies

Afrofuturism Lightning Talk Presentation

# Building Belonging for Black Students at CPP

Leo Carter
Junior
Hospitality Management, Collins College

# Problem

- Only 3% of the undergraduate students at CPP are Black/African American (Cal Poly Pomona, 2023).
- There is underrepresentation and feelings of isolation among Black students at Cal Poly Pomona.
- There is a need for a sense of community and support in academic and professional settings.

# Solution

- Develop mentorship programs connecting Black students with Black professionals.
- Create tailored support systems, including scholarships, financial aid, and career opportunities.
- Implement health and wellness programs tailored to Black students' unique needs.
- Develop diversity and inclusion training programs.
- Establish digital platforms for networking and career development.

# Process in Solving the Problem

**Steps Taken:**

- Meeting with students and Kenneth W. Partner II to gather information.
- Learning about the needs and support systems at Cal Poly Pomona.
- Developing solutions based on Afrofuturism principles.

**What I Learned:**

- Importance of representation and tailored support.
- Gaps in current support systems, including the need for more Black faculty and diversity training (Brooms, 2019; Grier-Reed, 2013).

# Gratitude and Next Steps

**Gratitude:**

- Thanks to the Black students at CPP, Kenneth W. Partner II, and various support programs for Black students at CPP.

**Next Steps:**

- Starting the mentorship program using VR and AR technologies.
- Designing a scholarship and financial aid platform with blockchain technology.
- Developing a health and wellness app tailored for Black students.
- Creating interactive, gamified diversity training programs.

**How You Can Help:**

- Get involved in mentorship programs.
- Support funding programs for scholarships and financial aid.
- Participate in diversity and inclusion training.

# AFROFUTURISM

Building Belonging for
idents at CPP
Carter
Hospitality Management, Junior,

CalPolyPomona
College of Education
and Integrative Studies

## Problem

- Only 3% of the undergraduate students at CPP are Black/African American (Cal Poly Pomona, 2023).
- The problem addressed by this project revolves around the underrepresentation, feelings of isolation, and the need for a supportive community among Black students at Cal Poly Pomona (CPP).
- Many Black students experience a lack of role models, mentorship, and tailored support systems, leading to challenges in their academic and professional journeys.




## Solution

- Develop mentorship programs connecting Black students with Black professionals.
- Create tailored support systems, including scholarships, financial aid, and career opportunities.
- Implement health and wellness programs tailored to Black students' unique needs.
- Develop diversity and inclusion training programs.
- Establish digital platforms for networking and career development.

## Gratitude and Next Steps

**Gratitude:**

- Thanks to the Black students at CPP, Kenneth W. Partner II, and various support programs for Black students at CPP.

**Next Steps:**

- Starting the mentorship program using VR and AR technologies.
- Designing a scholarship and financial aid platform with blockchain technology.
- Developing a health and wellness app tailored to Black students.
- Creating interactive, gamified diversity training programs.

**How You Can Help:**

- Get involved in mentorship programs.
- Support funding programs for scholarships and financial aid.
- Participate in diversity and inclusion trainings.

## Process in Solving the Problem

**Steps Taken:**

•Attending meetings with Black students and Kenneth W. Partner II to gather information.
•Learning about the needs and support systems at Cal Poly Pomona.
•Developing solutions based on Afrofuturism principles.

**What I Learned:**

•Importance of representation and tailored support.

•Gaps in current support systems, including the need for more Black faculty and diversity training (Brooms, 2019; Grier-Reed, 2013).

