From the Director's Desk

Dear Readers,

It is the time of year for reflection. What have we accomplished these past 12 months and what would we like to achieve in the upcoming academic year? It is my hope that as you read the highlights from this past academic year, that you will join me in supporting the retention and graduation efforts of the African American Male Initiative (AAMI) at Augusta University. Readers can support the mission of this strategic initiative by either making a monetary contribution to AAMI using fund code 297005 at the following link: www.augusta.edu/giving/makeagift.php or volunteering for various programmatic efforts such as mentoring and professional development. Your support is essential to the advancement of AAMI at Augusta University.

With thanks,

Jerry Oliver Jr.
Jerry Oliver Jr., M.Ed., AAMI Program Director

About AAMI

The University System of Georgia’s (USG) African-American Male Initiative (AAMI) is a statewide initiative designed to increase the number of African-American males who complete their postsecondary education from any of the USG institutions.

AAMI Mission

Its mission is to provide an integrated program model of academic and social tools that support students around adopting a positive mindset to successfully complete classes, elevate their cumulative GPAs, matriculate through each academic level and graduate.
AAMI Integrated Program Model

The Integrated Program Model is a strategic programming support by the University System of Georgia (USG). Throughout the newsletter, you will see each point incorporated into the programming at Augusta University. The model includes four main components:

**Academic Skills Enrichment**

Provides supplemental literacy, writing, math and study-skill activities to help pre-college students transition to college academic life during the summer and assist enrolled AAMI participants with RPG (retention, progression, and graduation) throughout the academic year.

**Student Support Services**

Makes available internal and external resources, information and learning tools to enhance students’ academic and social successes.

**Adult & Peer Mentoring**

Connects AAMI students to adults and peers who encourage achievement, foster positive attitudes, as well as a sense of belonging through personal and academic support, while reinforcing RPG.

**Leadership Development**

Provides multi-faceted professional and soft skills forums to help develop and strengthen participants’ leadership skills.

Visit usg.edu/aami for more information about the program model.

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"Increasing the number of African-American males who complete their post-secondary education"

- University System of Georgia
Notable Student Success

AAMI students interested in pursuing medical school or a health services career meet monthly with our university’s medical students for group mentoring. The students have considered this to be a valuable opportunity to engage with their peers. Additionally, AAMI students have the medical students’ contact information for meetings outside of the regular group meetings. This on campus partnership has caught the attention of a national organization, AAMC-Association of American Medical Colleges. They have reached out to Wanda Gross about a possible collaboration.

Year in a Glance

Student Spotlight

Fall 2019
- Eric Frazier graduated December 2018. Frazier was a participant in the AAMI program all 4 years of his attendance at Augusta University. Frazier was recently admitted into a graduate psychology program.
- Steven Lambert began the Nuclear Medicine Technology Program in Fall 2018.
- Terrell Williams began the Respiratory Therapy Program in Fall 2018.

Spring 2019
- We have four AAMI graduates for Spring 2019: LeDarius Scott, Ladi Dada, Furious Smith, and Eric Boone.
- LeDarius Scott began his second term as SGA President at Augusta University. Scott graduated Spring 2019 and will return as a graduate student Fall 2019.
18-19 Year Recap

September
Time Management Workshop
14 attendees

November
Suicide Prevention Workshop
14 AAMI Participants

Preparing for Finals
12 AAMI Participants

January
Black Male Mental Health Toolkit
41 Attendees

March
Consent is the New Sexy: Conversations with Men about the Power of Consent
47 attendees

Black Male Leadership Summit

Augusta University’s African American Male Initiative Program, E³, hosted its second Black Male Leadership summit on Saturday, April 20, 2019 in University Hall on the Summerville Campus.

The event drew a little over 100 attendees and community vendors. Breakout sessions included current students, alumni, and local community members that focused on topics specific to the Black male experience in the community and higher education. Some topics included: financial literacy, black male sexuality, leadership development, and the college experience for black males.

The African American Male Initiative Program, E³, (AAMI) is a university-wide initiative spearheaded by Jerry Oliver Jr. as the director, with partners across Augusta University’s campus representing academic affairs, student affairs, advancement, admissions, institutional effectiveness, financial aid, and athletics. The AAMI Program aims to improve the academic performance, undergraduate experience, and graduation rates of Black male undergraduates at Augusta University.

"The summit was awesome. I was recently admitted into the nursing program and I was looking for a mentor that looked like me in the field of nursing. I was able to connect with Walter Quiller, a local black male nurse, at his session..."

- Isaiah Casey, AAMI Participant

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This year’s theme was, “Leaders of Tomorrow: Empowering Black Men to Become Change Agents.” Michael Cadore, Associate Provost at Eastern Florida State College and Florida College football hall of famer, gave the keynote address. Cadore spoke on the importance of having goals, networking, determination, and education.

Jerry Oliver, Jr., Director of Augusta University’s AAMI Program, shared his thoughts about the summit. “We wanted the attendees and presenters to leave the summit feeling that they had connected with two to three people that could help them become change agents and possibly build a network to support their career aspirations,” Oliver, Jr. said.

Attendees at the summit cried, laughed and uplifted one another throughout the one-day event.

As highlighted by one attendee, Isaiah Casey, “The summit was awesome. I was recently admitted into the nursing program and I was looking for a mentor that looked like me in the field of nursing. I was able to connect with Walter Quiller, a local black male nurse, at his session on Reaching Success for Males in Non-Dominate Roles of Education and Healthcare.”

Augusta University’s AAMI Program will continue to implement strategies that aim to increase the academic success of black males at Augusta University. In cooperation campus partners, AAMI will help to identify and reduce barriers to the academic progress and achievement of Black males. In collaboration with student and academic affairs colleagues around campus, they will also proactively respond to the academic, social, and cultural needs of Black males throughout their undergraduate careers.

Visit Augusta University’s AAMI webpage to learn more on upcoming programs.