NASPA’s Public Policy Agenda
2012-2013

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Each quarter the African-American Knowledge Community will feature the public policy updates that are impacting our students and practitioners. These policy updates will explore relevant current events and issues that are unfolding in the higher education and national education landscape. Each section will feature a brief synopsis of the article along with author and date published.

NASPA has identified the following three areas for focus during 2012-2013:

- Student Success and College Completion
- Issues related to undocumented students
- Cost of funding higher education, including related accountability efforts

The summaries within will address some of these focus areas as well as other pertinent articles impacting African-American students and professionals. On page five is information regarding the upcoming AAKC & LKC co-sponsored webinar: “Looking Beyond Latinos: The True Face of Undocumented Students”.

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Noteworthy Articles are featured along with Highlights & Headlines from across the country

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Review the most recently released updates from 2012

Webinar 5
Join us for “Looking Beyond Latinos: The True Face of Undocumented Students” on February 6th
ASSET Bill is Re-introduced in Colorado Senate to Give In-State Tuition for Undocumented Students

This legislation would allow undocumented students who have completed their high school requirements (or received a GED) and also been admitted to an in-state institution to be eligible for in-state tuition. They also must provide an affidavit that they will seek lawful status as soon as they are able.

Learn more: http://tinyurl.com/atudyqu

Elite Colleges Struggle to Recruit Smart, Low Income Kids

Top universities are facing increased pressure to continue identifying means of recruiting students from low socioeconomic backgrounds in an effort to overcome the perception they only cater to social elites. Some administrators at these institutions have asserted that the pool of “low-income students with top academic credentials was just limited.” This is untrue and in fact there is a strong pool of these students they just aren’t ending up at elite schools.

Learn more: http://tinyurl.com/bb9o7mn

Black Athletes and Other Men

A recent study conducted by Dr. Shaun R. Harper explores the problematic reality of black men absent in the classroom but present on the athletic field. “We hear over and over again that colleges and universities just cannot find qualified, college-ready black men to come to their institutions; but it seems they can find them when they want the black men to generate revenue for them” said Harper. The study further examines how successful institutions have been at graduating black male athletes and other black men on campus. (See chart)

Learn more: http://tinyurl.com/c7bqhxk

Who’s Afraid of Black Sexuality?

A recent article featured in The Chronicle of Higher Education unpacks the perceptions of black sexuality and how our society frames this discussion. Dr. Darieck Scott, a professor of African-American studies at UC Berkeley raises the question, “How do you talk about black sexuality when the very notion that there is such a thing...is an expression of an essentially racist logic?”

Learn more: http://tinyurl.com/co9wbs9

2013 Public Policy Updates

Learn about some of the recent public policy happenings across the country. Topics include: undocumented students,
White College Student Starts First White Student Union at Towson U.

“White Culture is Dying”
Learn more: http://tinyurl.com/b76dcec

Inside Higher Ed: “Victims Too”
College Cases Highlight the Complexity of Same Sex Victim Assaults
"I think we've come a long way, but I don't think we're there yet in terms of larger societal acceptance. Being a GLBT survivor in some sense means they have to come out as a GLBT survivor, and they may not be ready to do that," said Susan Marine, a former victim advocate who is now an assistant professor and program director in higher education at Merrimack College. "When you add to that another stigmatized identity, I think that can pose a really significant challenge to a lot of students."
Reporting of same-sex assaults is definitely on the rise, and not just among college students, said Beth Leventhal, executive director The Network/La Red, an anti-domestic violence organization that focuses on LGBT communities.
Learn More: http://tinyurl.com/aeqmpaw

NAACP President on ‘Commonality’ of Selma, Seneca Falls, and Stonewall
“Each fight has been led by folks who are proud and supported by folks who are proud about what they've accomplished, who are clear that the type of oppression they experience is different. But to have the president of the United States validate each of these movements, and through inference and through various other statements, so many others, was important. And I think today’s activists, especially today's young activists, are more willing, more able, more inclined, less inhibited to see our country's great movement for human rights as what it is, which is at the end of the day one great movement.” ~ Benjamin Todd Jealous, President & CEO of the NAACP
Learn More: http://tinyurl.com/b7p9g6y

Penn State Sorority Apologizes for Offensive Photo (below)
Members of the Nu Gamma chapter of Chi Omega are depicted in the photo above at a Mexican themed social wearing ponchos, sombreros, and fake mustaches. Some signs read: “will mow lawn for weed & beer” or “I don’t cut grass, I smoke it”
Learn more: http://tinyurl.com/aoyt8ap
2012 Noteworthy Articles

“From Cellblock to Campus, One Black Man Defies Data” (Stacey Patton—The Chronicle of Higher Education, October 29, 2012)

http://tinyurl.com/cqltv9t

“Foreign Students and Tolerance II” (Zach Ritter—Inside HigherEd, October 26, 2012)

http://tinyurl.com/8pyke54

“Too Many People of Color Feel Uncomfortable at Work” (Sylvia Ann Hewlett—Harvard Business School, October 18, 2012)

http://tinyurl.com/8qvgkpn


http://tinyurl.com/d8ujfog

2012 Highlights and Headlines

African-Americans in STEM-related fields. A recent article from Inside Higher Ed exposed 10% of the 56 black computer science professors are located Clemson University; additionally, emerging research has shown black students may exhibit greater succeed in STEM fields when taught by black faculty (Tilsley, 2012).

The Student Voices Series, an initiative sponsored by Secretary Arne Duncan, has given college students across the country the opportunity to share their college experience. Most specifically, students highlight the importance of sponsored TRIO programs and Pell Grants as mechanisms to support college persistence (U.S. Department of Education Homeroom Blog, September 2012).

The Schott Foundation for Public Education found that of the black males entering high school between 2006-2007, 52% graduated in four years compared to 78% white (non-Latino) males and 58% of Latino males (AP, 2012; for more information visit: http://www.blackboysreport.org/).

Duke University removed a photo from its official women’s lacrosse team website featuring a player in blackface. The image was taken from a group depiction of the film “The Little Rascals”. A statement from the head coach, Kerstin Kimel, said: "The Duke women’s lacrosse program celebrates Halloween with an annual gathering. This year, some of our costume choices were insensitive and entirely inappropriate. No offense was intended, but that does not matter because we should have realized how these choices would be viewed by those outside of our program."

The University of Southern California is facing allegations of discrepancies between the tenure and promotion rates of white male candidates versus minority and female candidates. Read more at: http://tinyurl.com/cuycvmy
Looking Beyond Latinos: The True Face of Undocumented Students
Wednesday February 6, 2013 at 2:00 PM

The webinar will explore the emerging trend of undocumented students in the American higher education system.

Topics will include...
- Overview of the Racial Demographics of Undocumented Students
- The Dream Act and NASPA’s support
- Overview of State Dream Act Policies
- Impact of Counter-Immigration legislation on Undocumented Students
- Best Practices for serving Undocumented Students at diverse institution types such as Predominately White Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, etc.

If you have pertinent public policy updates and would like to see them featured in next quarter’s newsletter please share them via the contact information below.

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