EXAMINING THE EXPERIENCES OF BLACK MALE COLLEGE ATHLETES THROUGH A RACIAL AND ATHLETIC IDENTITY LENS

RESEARCH FROM THE FRONT PORCH

"THE COMBINATION OF BLACK MALE [COLLEGE] ATHLETES' INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS AND INSTITUTIONAL FACTORS PROVIDES AN AVENUE FOR INSTITUTIONS TO DIRECTLY EXAMINE AND MEET THE PSYCHOSOCIAL DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF THESE STUDENTS"

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Although the "athlete" title can at times act as a buffer when dealing with injustice, Black male college athletes continue to face discrimination based on their racial, athletic, and student identities.

- Socialization and reinforced commitment to athletic identity hinder the ability of Black male college athletes to develop within their numerous other social identities.

- The emphasis on athletic and racial identities of Black male college athletes serves as a lens in which this population is often forced to view their other identities – (sub)consciously undervaluing them (Howe, 2020).

QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

- What support systems are in place for Black male college athletes at my institution that are not centered on their role as an athlete?

- In what ways can our athletic department partner with the academic silo of the institution to provide similar holistic developmental opportunities as non-athlete students on campus?

- How is our athletic department being educated on the experiences of Black male college athletes to create a more supportive environment?

- Does our institution altruistically value the experiences and holistic development of Black male college athletes?

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Additional Resources:
- 'Howe, J. E. (2020). Manifestations of athletic identity in Black male collegiate student-athletes: Introduction of a model. Journal of Amateur Sport, 6(2), 107–135.

- Jonathan Howe's Website

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