

The Black Church

Student Support

1. Understanding the role and history of the Black church, how is the church's engagement with youth distinctly impactful to academic and leadership skills development for Black students?
2. Many leaders in the Black church often have backgrounds in areas that are centered in community support and support of people's well-being and health. How can this expertise and experience support the church with work that extends into communities?
3. How does the Black church's partnership with community and education-based organizations strengthen capacity to reach and impact students and families?

Cultural Empowerment

1. How does the cultural and traditional history of the Black church support leadership development for Black youth? Think about the social and political platforms led by Black churches as well as the significant teaching of resilience and strength through adversity.
2. Think about the roles that the Black church has played historically in social justice movements and the civil rights movement. How does/can the Black church continue its work toward impacting current-day social and equity-based issues?
3. How is the church preparing youth to lead these movements. (Discuss youth ministries and spiritual guidance)

Post PreK-12 Life Preparation

Confidence and Advocacy

1. Mentoring and networking are key components to a successful career trajectory. How can educators and community leaders support Black students in ensuring they are confident and prepared to connect with potential mentors and engage in networking opportunities?
2. What are steps that we can take as community members, educators and advocates to ensure that professional spaces that have not been traditionally inclusive of Black communities become more intentionally inclusive environments?

3. How can we encourage students to celebrate their smaller wins toward education and career success while also staying focused on “the long game”?

Creative Opportunities for Access

1. Student loan debt is a major concern for our nation, especially Black college students. How can Black students be supported in navigating affordable opportunities to attain education and skill set training for successful careers?
2. How can communities support Black students in understanding their strengths in relation to job/entrepreneurial expectations and developing skills that will set them on a path toward choosing and being successful in their careers?
3. How can community leaders/members, educators and business leaders collaborate to intentionally address barriers for Black students pursuing higher education and skill-set training for career development?