**Blugold Beginnings Multicultural Learning Community: A Comparison of Campus Involvement and Persistence**

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**Background**

Underserved student pathways to college are critical, as they often lack access to resources, both college knowledge and preparation in the home, and often have fewer or no adult generations of college graduates in the home. Students in the Blugold Beginnings Multicultural Learning Community (BBLC) are invited to the Blugold Beginnings Multicultural Learning Community (BBMC) in order to prepare them for the broader college experience. The Blugold Beginnings Multicultural Learning Community at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire has been successful in engaging students from diverse backgrounds, including African American students and students of color, in their college experience. In this study, participants were invited to complete the online Qualtrics survey, which addressed their feelings of acceptance on campus.

**Method**

The Blugold Beginnings Multicultural Learning Community is a student support program that targets students who are underrepresented in higher education. The program includes workshops, peer mentoring, and academic support services. In this study, 68 students enrolled in the Blugold Beginnings Multicultural Learning Community were invited to participate in the study. Of these, 22 completed the online Qualtrics survey, which addressed their feelings of acceptance on campus.

**Results**

In order to test the effect of a Blugold Beginnings Multicultural Learning Community (BBMC) on student'sFeelings Towards Higher Education, the study was conducted. Students in the BBMC reported significantly higher feelings of being respected and valued by their peers on campus and higher feelings of being helped by their peers on campus than students in the control group. Additionally, students in the BBMC reported significantly higher feelings of proving their worth to others than students in the control group.

**Discussion**

The overall findings suggest that the Blugold Beginnings Multicultural Learning Community is effective in improving students' feelings of acceptance on campus. Students in the BBMC reported significantly higher feelings of being respected and valued by their peers than students in the control group. Additionally, students in the BBMC reported significantly higher feelings of proving their worth to others than students in the control group.

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