

Black and Latinx Students Search for Community at Historically White Institutions



Campus Counterspaces: Black and Latinx Students' Search for Community at Historically White Universities

by Micere Keels

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For Black and Latinx students, attending a historically white institution (HWI) can be a daunting experience. These students often feel isolated and alone on campus, as they may be the only or one of a few students of color in their classes and social circles.

The lack of diversity on HWI campuses can make it difficult for Black and Latinx students to find a sense of community and belonging. They may feel like they don't fit in or that they are not welcome on campus.

This can have a negative impact on their academic performance and overall well-being. Studies have shown that Black and Latinx students who feel isolated and alone on campus are more likely to experience depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues.

In addition, Black and Latinx students at HWIs may also face discrimination and racism from their peers and professors. This can make it even more difficult for them to feel comfortable and safe on campus.

Despite these challenges, there are many Black and Latinx students who are thriving at HWIs. These students have found ways to connect with other students of color and create a sense of community for themselves.

Here are some of the ways that Black and Latinx students can find community at HWIs:

- Joining student organizations and clubs that are specifically for students of color.
- Attending events and programs that are hosted by the university's multicultural center or diversity office.
- Reaching out to other students of color in their classes and residence halls.
- Volunteering in the community with organizations that serve Black and Latinx people.

HWIs can also play a role in creating more inclusive environments for Black and Latinx students. Here are some suggestions for how HWIs can do this:

- Increasing the diversity of the faculty and staff.
- Offering more courses and programs that focus on the experiences of Black and Latinx people.
- Creating safe spaces for students of color to meet and socialize.

- Providing support services for students of color, such as counseling and academic advising.
- Working with local community organizations to provide opportunities for students of color to engage with the community.

By taking these steps, HWIs can create more inclusive environments for Black and Latinx students and help them to feel more connected and supported on campus.

Black and Latinx students deserve to feel welcome and included on HWI campuses. By creating more inclusive environments, HWIs can help these students to succeed academically and personally.



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