

# Creating Urban Partnerships: Engagement for Progress

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# U of M Mission Statement

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- The mission of the University of Michigan is to serve the people of Michigan and the world through preeminence in creating, communicating, preserving and applying knowledge, art, and academic values, and in developing leaders and citizens who will challenge the present and enrich the future.



# The Admissions Context

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- UM is committed to having a diverse campus community
  - Not limited to race or ethnicity
  - Includes students, staff and faculty who come from a broad range of backgrounds, experiences and perspectives
  - Students are looking for an educational experience that will prepare them for the future in an increasingly diverse society



# The Pipeline – Michigan High School Graduates (2003-04)

Michigan	GPA $\geq$ 3.0	%
African American	1,035	3.1
American Indian	148	.4
Asian American	1,063	3.2
Caucasian	28,537	85.0
Mexican American	363	1.1
Multiracial	499	1.5
Hispanic	155	.5
Other	424	1.3
No Response	1,326	4.0
Total	33,570	





# The Academic Context

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- UM experience and research show that a diverse academic community leads to better teaching and learning environments
  - More effective problem-solving, more inspired creative endeavors. greater intellectual self-confidence and engagement. (Gurin, et al, 2003)
  - Businesses want educated people who can work as members of a diverse team to accomplish goals; higher education must train them for this.



# The Demographic Imperative

- 50 years ago 80% of jobs were “unskilled” and required only a high school education
- Today 85% of jobs are “skilled” and require a variety of abilities that are acquired in post-secondary education
- 60% of college students today are women
- 65% of population growth in the next 15 years will be among minorities, principally Hispanic and Asian

(Spanier, G. B., 2006)



# UM Center for Educational Outreach

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- Encourage academic excellence
- Access to higher education
- Enroll a diverse student body
- Personal empowerment
- Serve the common good





# K-12 Outreach Programs

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- Over 130 Programs
  - Academic Enrichment
  - Career Exploration
  - Technical Assistance
  - Assessment and Treatment
  - Health Awareness
  - Mentoring
  - Conflict Resolution





# Partnership of Engagement

- UM and Detroit Public Schools
  - MCAP
- Broader Purpose: to cultivate a mutually beneficial relationship between what has been the largest school district in our state and the premier university in the state
- Bi-monthly meetings alternate between UM and DPS
- Wide participation



# Developing Partnerships

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- Problem Identification
- Stakeholder Involvement
- Intervention Strategy
- Engagement and implementation
- Evaluation and Revision



# Challenges

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- Continuity of personnel
- Building a citywide culture of learning
- Developing new initiatives
- Funding of new initiatives



# References

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- Spanier, G. B. (2006). “The Future of the Academy: Coping with Changing Demographics and Privatization.” Presented at the College Board Forum, New York, October 30, 2005