

## Center for the African American Male (CAAM)

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### Center for African American Male (CAAM)

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For nearly thirty years, The Center for the African American Male (CAAM) has touch the lives of male students matriculating in Southwest Georgia and beyond. Our mission seeks to enable students to discover their authentic identities by allowing them to achieve their full potential as scholars and assume leadership roles in their community upon graduation, has serve as a major cornerstone.

Founded in 1988, by the late, Dr. Billy Black and colleagues, the Center for the Study of the Black Male was designed to promote positive influence, education, and growth of males enrolled in what was formerly known as Albany State College. Since its inception, CAAM has worked to increase retention, promote positive self-image, engage in mentorship collaborations while partnering with various departments at Albany State University to leverage our resource and assist more African American Males in our community.

As you navigate through our web pages, you will see a picture is worth a thousand words.

- We understand the impact of our efforts and moving forward, CAAM will be resolute not only to create an environment that increases retention of African American Males but also to enhance the academic performance of freshmen males enrolled at ASU.
- Annual statistical analysis and comparison of non-CAAM to CAAM members regarding retention, grade point average and graduation rates occur.
- Also, in keeping with Albany State University's Guiding Principal, to elevate historically underserved populations, CAAM hired a Community Engagement Specialist to increase our community involvement with initiatives that serve the same. Members' lives are enhanced by working within the community, by mentoring, tutoring, attending monthly meetings, Saturday academies, and male dialogues.
- CAAM augments and fosters mentoring opportunities within our service areas for males in surrounding school systems via hosting Saturday academies, male dialogues, youth summits and conferences. These efforts play a vital role with introducing students to college, while creating familiarity for students to identify with various people, departments and organizations at ASU.

CAAM's advancement of African-American Males is resolute, not only at our institution, but also within the City of Albany and the Southwest Georgia region. Continually nurtured and supported in positive ways, members of CAAM are becoming successful student leaders and contributors to a more just society.

In addition, CAAM has and will continue our collaborations with the Dougherty County School System, ASU Transportation, ASU Police Department and Georgia Department of Fishing and Wildlife to host a Fishing Rodeo for hundreds of youth. We boost our efforts planning for exciting educational and goal oriented Saturday Academies. Further, CAAM collaborated with ASU's Department of Athletics, Department of Music, College of Education, etc. and various school districts and community partners to host boys and girls from our surrounding counties, North Florida and East Alabama to participate with the following signature events: The T-Shirt of Colors Football Game, The Winter Youth Summit, The National M.A.L.E.S Conference, Summer Underage Drinking Forum, Male Dialogues and the Dougherty County Youth Orchestra Concerts.

From the aforementioned programs, we serviced nearly 1,500 students annually.

Presently, CAAM has maintained the initiative and was recognized on January 21, 2014 for our loyal support and dedication to the Boys and Girls Club students. We helped leverage the club's spending by training and engaging our students to do their community service for the same, saving the BGC budget over \$100,000.00 over the past four years. Furthermore, we have hosted, presented, dialogued, mentored and partnered with countless faith-based organizations, numerous area elementary, middle and high schools, and increased our tri-state reach. We readily welcome more partnerships and community engagement that will enhance our mission.

In closing, our motto, "Linking success and leadership one male at a time" is more than a phrase, it's our center piece that collectively connects our leaders of today with their brightest future. We are and remain, Ram Tough!

As this academic year progress, the Center for the African American Male will continue to focus its aim while utilizing best practice models to remain a vital resource and a leader with advancing the lives of African American Males in Southwest Georgia.