Racial Disparities in Education
Coalition of Communities of Color
&
Portland State University

Presentation to
Oregon’s State Board of Higher Education
June 3, 2011
Overview

• Introducing the Coalition of Communities of Color
• Population growth of students of color
• Key findings
  – Educational attainment disparities
  – Preschool disparities result in racial disparities on entering Kindergarten
  – Achievement gap (% of those who meet or exceed benchmarks in test results)
  – Discipline (those who are suspended or expelled) disparities
  – Graduation rates disparities
  – Higher Education disparities in access & graduation

• Recommendations
Coalition of Communities of Color

The Coalition’s mission is:

- To address the socioeconomic disparities, institutional racism, and inequity of services experienced by our families, children and communities
- To organize our communities for collective action resulting in social change to obtain self-determination, wellness, justice and prosperity
Across Oregon, the population of people of color is 21.5% yet 33% of Oregon’s public school students.
Educational attainment, Multnomah County, 2008

- If White, have 1/14 chance of not graduating high school. If a person of color, almost 1/3 don’t graduate high school.
- Chance of having a degree? 40.2% for Whites, and 20.8% for people of color.
Size of community that has not completed high school,
Multnomah County, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students of Color</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>43.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>38.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slavic</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Immigrant &amp; Refugee</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Target: 5%
Early Head Start

- 6,584 eligible children
- 560 children served
- 6,024 eligible children not served

Head Start

- 3,791 eligible children
- 2,422 children served
- 1,369 eligible children not served

Oregon Department of Education does not make these data available disaggregated by race or ethnicity.
• Educational disparities are deep, and widened last year
• Improvements best between 2004 and 2006
But PPS results are mixed

Achievement Gap, English/Language Arts, PPS, 2009 & 2010
(% of students who meet or exceed benchmarks)

- White Students: 86.4% (2009), 87.2% (2010)
- Students of Color: 68.3% (2009), 67.0% (2010)
Limited English capacity serves today as a massive deterrent to academic success. Non-compliance with federal regulations is an ongoing problem.
The achievement gap worsens significantly as our youth move into higher grades.
Discipline rates, Multnomah County High Schools, 2004-2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>White students</th>
<th>Students of Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004/05</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>(44% higher)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005/06</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>(50% higher)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- White students
- Students of Color
Culturally-Specific Education

• NAYA Early College Academy
  – Retention = 90% of students
  – Graduation = 88% of enrollments
  – Teacher recruitment = over 90% are Native and 88% hold Master’s degrees
  – Achievement = average 3-grade level reading gain

• Self-Enhancement, Inc.
  – Graduation = 100% of enrollments
Impact of Affluence on Graduation Rates

• Oregon, 2009
  – For Whites – increase graduation rates from 82% to 90%
  – For Students of Color – little impact on graduation... 78% regardless of income levels

• What does this mean?
  – Only Whites are able to translate improved incomes into improved graduation levels
  – Students of color are not able to translate affluence into improved chances for graduation
% of Oregon’s Graduates who begin Higher Education

- 1993: 53.2%
- 1995: 60.7%
- 1997: 63.5%
- 1999: 62.4%
- 2001: 66.2%
- 2003: 68.1%
- 2005: 70.3%
Result: Disproportionality has gotten worse since 2000
Oregon University System Graduation Rates, 2008 (within 6 years)

- White: 61.2%
- Students of color: 50.4%
- Asian: 56.6%
- Latino: 53.7%
- Native American: 46.4%
- African American: 44.7%
Yet Education is not a guarantee

• At same education levels, people of color have much greater unemployment
  – In 2007, college-educated have 43.8% worse unemployment than Whites
  – By 2008, this deteriorated to 51% worse levels

• At the same education levels, people of color have worse incomes
  – Averaging 24% worse incomes across education levels
Average annual incomes for different education levels, USA, 1999

- **29% premium**
- **22% premium**
Net impact... today

• Of every 100 White students who start high school...
  – 61 of them complete high school successfully
  – 43 of them go on to higher education
  – If all go to OUS institutions, **26 will graduate** from university in 6 years (one-in-four)

• Of every 100 students of color who start high school...
  – Only 44 of them complete high school successfully
  – Only 30 go on to higher education
  – If all go to OUS institutions, **only 15 will graduate** from university in 6 years (one-in-seven)

• **Disparities will grow with these trends**
Recommendations

1. Recognize depth and urgency of this problem

2. Achievements seen for White students must be provided for students of color
   - Educational (and economic) progress for Oregon depends on gains made for students of color
   - Our destiny as a region depends on racial equity gains made among communities of color

3. Policies must be created by the Board to move forward, and must be a priority of the Board

4. Board-level directives are required to move good intentions into concrete and durable achievements
5. Address racial disparities using best practices that include:
   – Clear directives & commitments at top leadership level
   – Strong community partnerships
   – Shared power and resources
   – Culturally-specific services for each community
Thank you!
For more information

• Julia Meier, Coordinator, Coalition of Communities of Color
  – juliam@nayapdx.org
  – 503-288-8177 x295

• Ann Curry-Stevens, Principle Investigator
  – currya@pdx.edu
  – 503-725-5315

• The full report can be downloaded from www.coalitioncommunitiescolor.org