



Northeastern University

John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute

The John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute provides services and resources to promote the success of students of African origin, both at Northeastern University and in the larger community. These services and resources are also available to all students at the University.

The Institute administers a wide variety of programs, including a recruitment and retention program for Northeastern University freshmen known as the Ujima Scholars Program and a mentoring and retention program known as the Legacy Program. Through numerous ongoing and annual activities and events, including the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation, the Institute also fosters an understanding, appreciation, and celebration of both the African past and present and the cultural linkages among people of African origin in the Diaspora

Services of the John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute

General Academic Assistance The Institute offers writing support, study groups, counseling and free tutoring in a variety of subjects. Workshops are offered on choosing a major, co-op, financial aid, time management, and study skills. Students also have access to a computer lab during day and evening hours. Freshmen, upper-class students, and graduate students interact through peer mentoring and networking arrangements.

Counseling Culturally focused personal and career counseling and academic advising are central features of the counseling area. Students also receive assistance with identifying strategies for academic success, conflict resolution, self-advocacy, resume writing, job interviewing, and employment placement.

The Ujima Scholars Program Administered through the John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute, Ujima serves as a recruitment and retention program. "Ujima", a Swahili word meaning "collective work and responsibility", represents a guiding principle for Scholars and staff members. The program offers rigorous academic instruction in writing, oratory and research development and provides academic, personal and career counseling, workshops, information sessions, community service and leadership development opportunities, and cultural connectivity programming.

The Library The Institute houses a special collections library on African-American and African Diasporic cultures and history. Included in the collection are over 7,000 books, a variety of reference works, journals, newspapers, magazines, videos, and films. The library also has several Internet ready computers dedicated to research.

Reggie Lewis Technology Center – Named after the late, Northeastern University and Boston Celtic basketball great, Reggie Lewis, the Institute houses a computer lab of which both students and community members both use. The computer lab was donated by Donna Harris-Lewis, Reggie Lewis' widow and also a Northeastern alum. The computers and printers have been recently upgraded.

The MLK Fellowship - The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Graduate Fellowship Program provides up to nine graduate student scholarships each year, covering full tuition and general fees for the student's graduate program.

The Legacy Mentoring/Retention Program Also administered through the John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute is the Legacy Mentoring/Retention Program, which provides Black Latino/a freshman with upper-class mentors to help them adjust to campus life. This program sponsors cultural programs, educational outings, social activities, and leadership workshops to help students thrive at Northeastern.

The Amilcar Cabral Center A central location for educational and cultural activities, the Cabral Center hosts a variety of activities and events, including lectures, forums, films, and panels to enrich the experiences of the University and the local community. Annual programming includes a fall open house for students, a Kwanzaa celebration, Black History Month activities, the Dean Roland E. Latham Oratory Competition, the Black History Quiz Bowl, the annual Unity Week, the Unity and Awards Banquet honoring the achievements of African-American students, and a baccalaureate ceremony for graduates.

Community Outreach Students engage in many service opportunities, including working with the Mary McLeod Bethune Institute and the Paul Robeson Institute for Positive Self- Development, both of which foster the academic and personal enrichment of Boston's students of African origin in grades three through twelve. The Institute also matches students with a variety of other service opportunities in the local community.

For more information about services and programs offered by the John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute, please visit the Institute's Web site at www.northeastern.edu/aai/.

John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute

40 Leon Street, Northeastern University
617.373.3143 (voice)
617.373.4915 (fax)
k.jackson@neu.edu www.aai.neu.edu