
A2MEND Conference Reflection

Black Leadership Fellows - Robyn Bolden

Students:

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What is A2MEND?

African **A**merican **M**ale **E**ducation **N**etwork and **D**evelopment

The A2MEND Conference began in 2006 as a means of fostering institutional change within California's community college system to increase the success of African American male students. The professional and scholarly expertise of the African American males that lead this non-profit is employed to enact much needed change within our educational system for Black students.

Purpose in attending

Mesa College has a Black student population that has been vocalizing their need for community, space, and opportunity. While some of our staff and faculty have gotten to attend this conference and foster their professional development, we felt it was time for our students do the same.

Our students had the opportunity to be exposed to other Black educators, students, administrators, community leaders, etc. This fosters the development of their identity, professionalism, and ability to network while broadening their perspectives beyond Eurocentric educational standards. Attending the A2MEND Conference demonstrated just how important and needed our Black students are.

Applying this experience moving forward

As professionals in the field of education, we hope to take this experience and

- Find additional ways to expose our students to leadership and networking opportunities
- Foster the professional, personal, and educational development of our students
- Demonstrate the ability of our students by attending and/or hosting similar events
- Employ a Black perspective to our work to be equitable and culturally competent while serving our students



