Welcome!
By Amanuel Gebru Ed. D., Passage Program Coordinator

The Passage Program is excited about our first newsletter. We hope students, staff, faculty and administrators will benefit from the information and insights within.

Our newsletter highlights student activities and events and serves as a vehicle to promote and enhance the experience of our male students.

We are especially proud of our Passage students’ achievements in the past year. Last year, a number of Passage students received scholarships from both regional and national organizations. In 2012, six students received A2MEND Conference Scholarships and five students received Osher Foundation Scholarships. In March 2013, as a part of the A2MEND mentor program, seven students received scholarships at the Sixth Annual African-American Male Summit.

In addition, earlier this year four of our students participated in the Community College Presidents’ Round Table - Men of Color Leadership Institute, held in Phoenix, AZ.

We have some exciting activities and events planned for the rest of the semester and summer. A Northern California Campus Tour is in the works for April 2013. Potential transfer students will discover the academic possibilities available at UC Santa Barbara, UC Berkeley, and UC Santa Cruz.

In addition, we are planning our summer retreat at Lake Arrowhead. Students who attend will benefit from great workshops and presentations on topics such as personal and academic development.

The Passage Program thanks all staff, faculty and administrators who have supported the program and look forward to your continued support.

About Us
The Passage Program is an academic and student support service designed to increase the success of male students at Los Angeles Southwest College. Our services feature learning communities, counseling, field trips, workshops and mentors. We focus on empowering and equipping male students with the tools for academic success.
**Student Profile**

**Student:** Danny S. Brown  
**Major:** Business and Music  
**Degree Objective:** AA

**What was a significant event/transformational moment that brought you back to school?**  
The loss of my brother, house, girlfriend and job in consecutive years 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009. The most profound thing was getting to the point of accepting the loss of my brother.

**What inspires you?**  
Life and its challenges. Knowing that one can bounce back even after life changing events.

**List three words you would use to describe yourself.**  
Helpful, compassionate, and hardworking.

**Based on what you know now, what would you tell your “freshman self”?**  
Make a plan and stick to it. Reach out for help and use all resources that are helpful to you and your plan.

**What are you most proud of?**  
Getting an “A” in all my voice classes and a “C” in piano.

**What would you like to be your legacy?**  
The work I’ve done with A.S.O. and the LASC Strategic Planning Committee. My work with the 48th District Assembly in Los Angeles. I’d like to be known for bringing house music to the mainstream in Chicago, Illinois with Gucci Promotions. And the work I’ve done in the San Fernando Valley teaching ex-gang members ages 13 – 20 how to rap, sing and dance. And my love for people.

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**Passage Students Attend the 2013 A²MEND Summit**

The African American Male Educational Network and Development (A²MEND) organization held its 6th annual African American Male Summit on March 7th and 8th, 2013 at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott hotel. More than 200 students, faculty, and administrators attended this year’s summit titled **Unfinished Business: A commitment to institutional change and African American male success.** The summit focused on creating dialog around issues pertaining to the academic success of African American men in higher education.

"Once again, the AMEND conference did not disappoint. I really appreciated the “Abstract of Hope” session that emphasized the importance of teaching “hope” to students in poverty stricken communities. While male students of color experience the negative impact of traumatic events in their lives on a daily basis, it is up to us as professionals to be aware of the fact that consistent trauma is a blatant distraction for anyone attempting to obtain an education. This session reminded me that we can lessen the blow by offering an awareness of the power of ‘hope’.” **Sabrena Turner-Odom—Instructor**

“The conference motivated me to work on improving our services and the way we impact our students both academically and personally.” **Tiffany Dowd—Counselor**

“It made me take another look at my choices and how I can do more. Seeing so many African American males/professionals all ‘suited up’. . . It was powerful and dynamic.” **Kris Childs—Student**

“I was inspired to see Black males getting their doctorate degree. I thought it was unattainable . . . you don’t see any Ph.Ds. In my neighborhood. Now I’m thinking about getting my master or doctorate.” **Derrick Brown—Student**

“It was very informative, enlightening, and empowering. It lit a spark and gave me a sense of accountability.” **Danny Crumble—Student**
I am a man.
I define myself.
My worth in this world comes from the pride I have within and not what others think or say or do.
I am accountable for my actions and the master of my destiny.
I will use every tool at my disposal on my path to success.
Education is such a tool and I will use this tool to do what I have been placed on this earth to do.
This is my pledge to myself, this is my pledge to my family, and this is my pledge to my community.
This is my pledge . . .

Ms. Booker’s Theater 110 class viewing the Bernard and Shirley Kinsley African American Treasures Art Collection at Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center March 1, 2013.

The “African American Treasures” exhibit featuring the Kinsley art collection was an inspirational and historical Afro-centric experience. I learned that we as Black men are amazing . . . From our colored skin to our rough hair. To discover our great past is to create our great future.” Lawrence Love (Music major)
Study Tips

We absorb information best by using multiple senses. Make your impressions visual, verbal and auditory. A study done at the University of Texas found that people remember (Metcalf 1997):

- 10 percent of what they read;
- 20 percent of what they hear;
- 30 percent of what they see;
- 50 percent of what they see and hear;
- 70 percent of what they say; and
- 90 percent of what they do and say.

I have discovered in life that there are ways of getting almost anywhere you want to go, if you really want to go.
~ Langston Hughes

Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.
~ Malcolm X

Tools for Academic Success

**Attend All Classes:** One of the best ways to be successful in college is to attend all classes. Although you will be tested on material from the course text, most of the test questions will come from the lectures.

**Take a Lighter Course Load** (Meet with your Counselor): If this is your first term, start off with a lighter course load. This term your goal is to do well. When you’re a sophomore, junior or senior, you can take more credits.

**Become an Active Learner:** You can’t learn all of the material by just reading over it a couple of times. You need to write and recite the information to get it into your long-term memory.

**Participate in Class:** If you feel a bit uncomfortable participating in class, set a goal to either ask or answer one question during each class. Once you begin participating you’ll feel more a part of the class and will become more actively involved in the learning process.

Attention Faculty and Staff— Mentors Wanted

Mentors will serve as role models and guides for the men of Passage. Mentors will meet bimonthly with mentees to discuss the student’s academic and professional progress. They will also talk about goals, personal issues and other topics.

We strongly encourage you to join us in making a difference in the life of at least one student.

If you are interested or would like additional information, please feel free to contact Dr. Gebru at ext. 5468 or by e-mail to gebrua@lasc.edu.

Taz Peoples listens to a speaker during Summer Retreat 2012

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