



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. 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, 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, upperclass 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, serves as an access, 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 6,300 books, a variety of reference works, journals, newspapers, magazines, videos, and films.

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.aai.neu.edu.

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40 Leon Street
Northeastern University
Boston, Massachusetts 02115
617.373.3143 (voice)
617.373.4915 (fax)
k.jackson@neu.edu
www.aai.neu.edu

Revised 6/07