



The Last Shall Be First: Improving Academic Success for Students of Color

Bryon A. Dickens

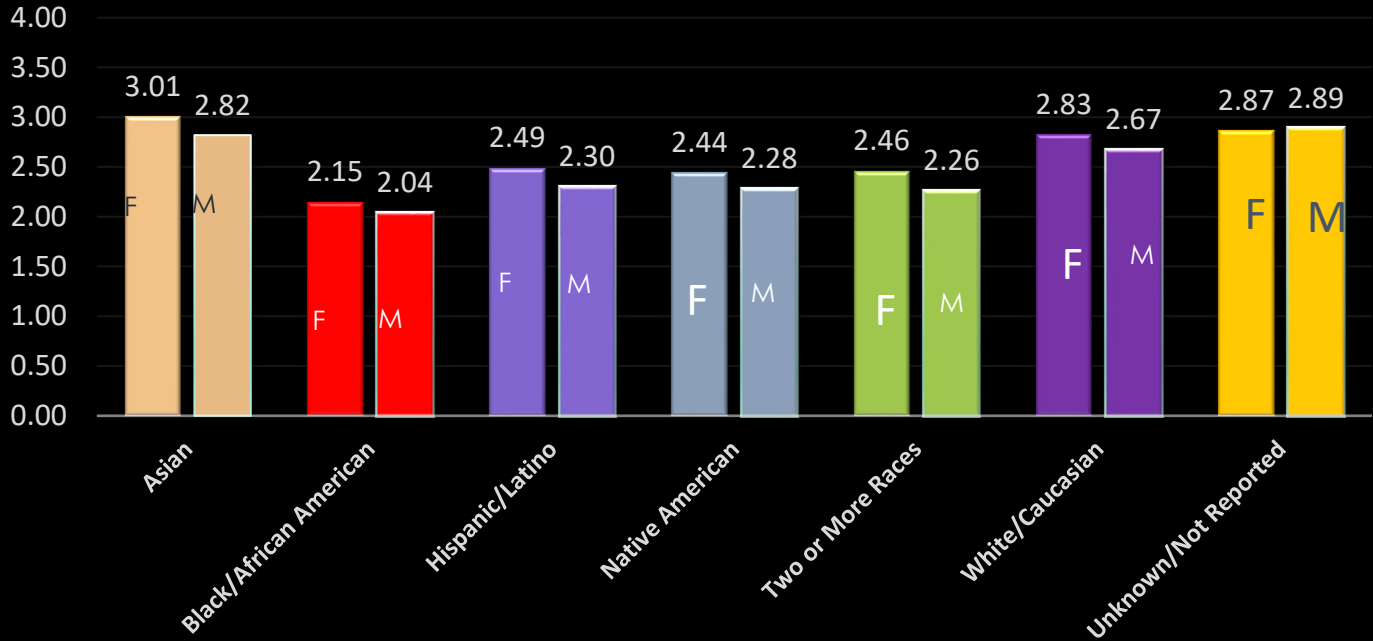
*Mentorship Program Director
Oklahoma City Community College*

Road Map

- The Problem
- The Reason
 - According to Faculty/Staff
 - According to Students
- Proposed Solutions
- Successes
- Exchange Ideas



OCCC GPAs - Fall 2015



Average GPA 2.63

Reasons for the Problem

(According to Some Faculty/Staff)

- Not serious about academics
- Not socially or academically prepared for college
- Don't take advantage of campus resources, e.g., labs, tutors
- Fail to attend class consistently
- Don't engage in class discussions
- Not interested in campus activities

Issues to Address

- Awareness and utilization of campus resources
- Communication with professors
- Willingness to ask for help
- Academic professionalism
- Financial matters
- Feeling disconnected from campus
- Navigating life as a Black male



Where to Start:

The **caring attitude** of college personnel is viewed as the most potent retention force on campus.

Dr. Lee Noel

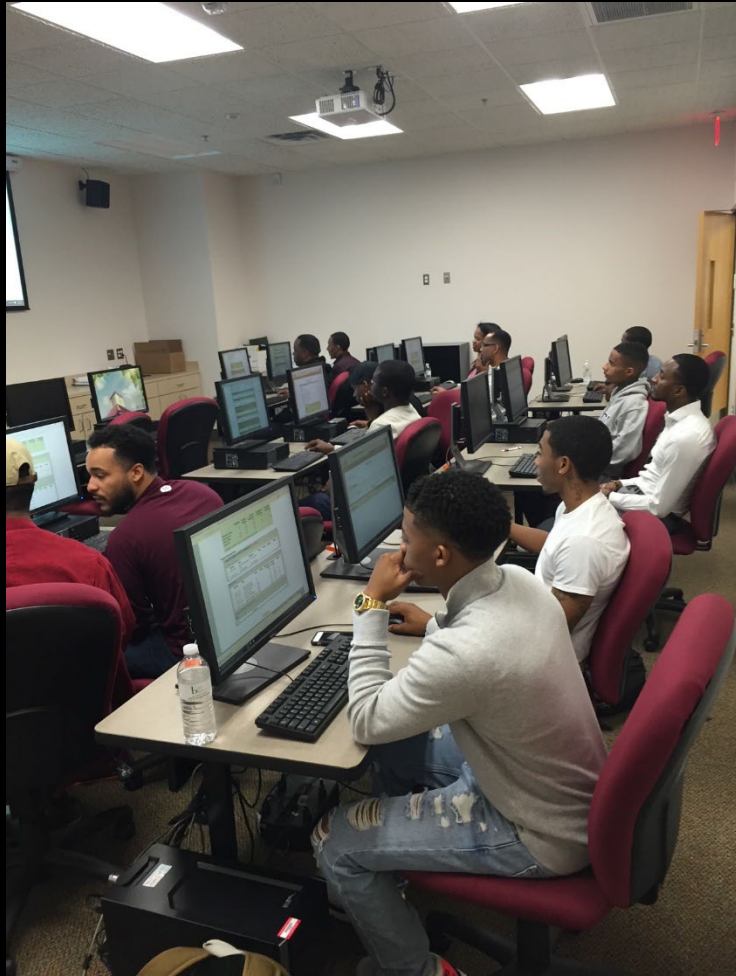
(Ruffalo Noel Levitz)



Program Components

- Academic Support
- Community Engagement
- Personal Development













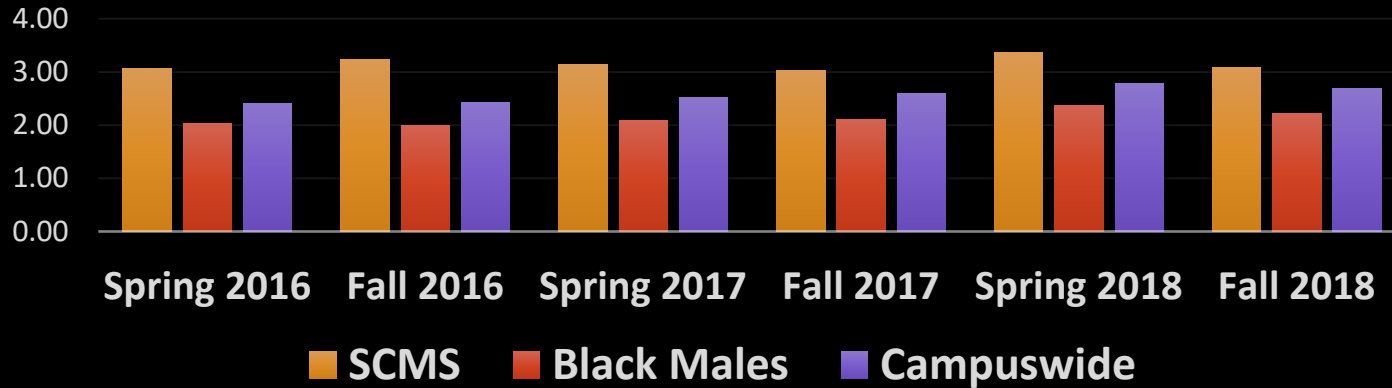
Inaugural Semester GPA Results

Campus-wide GPA average: 2.40

Black Males not in the program: 2.04

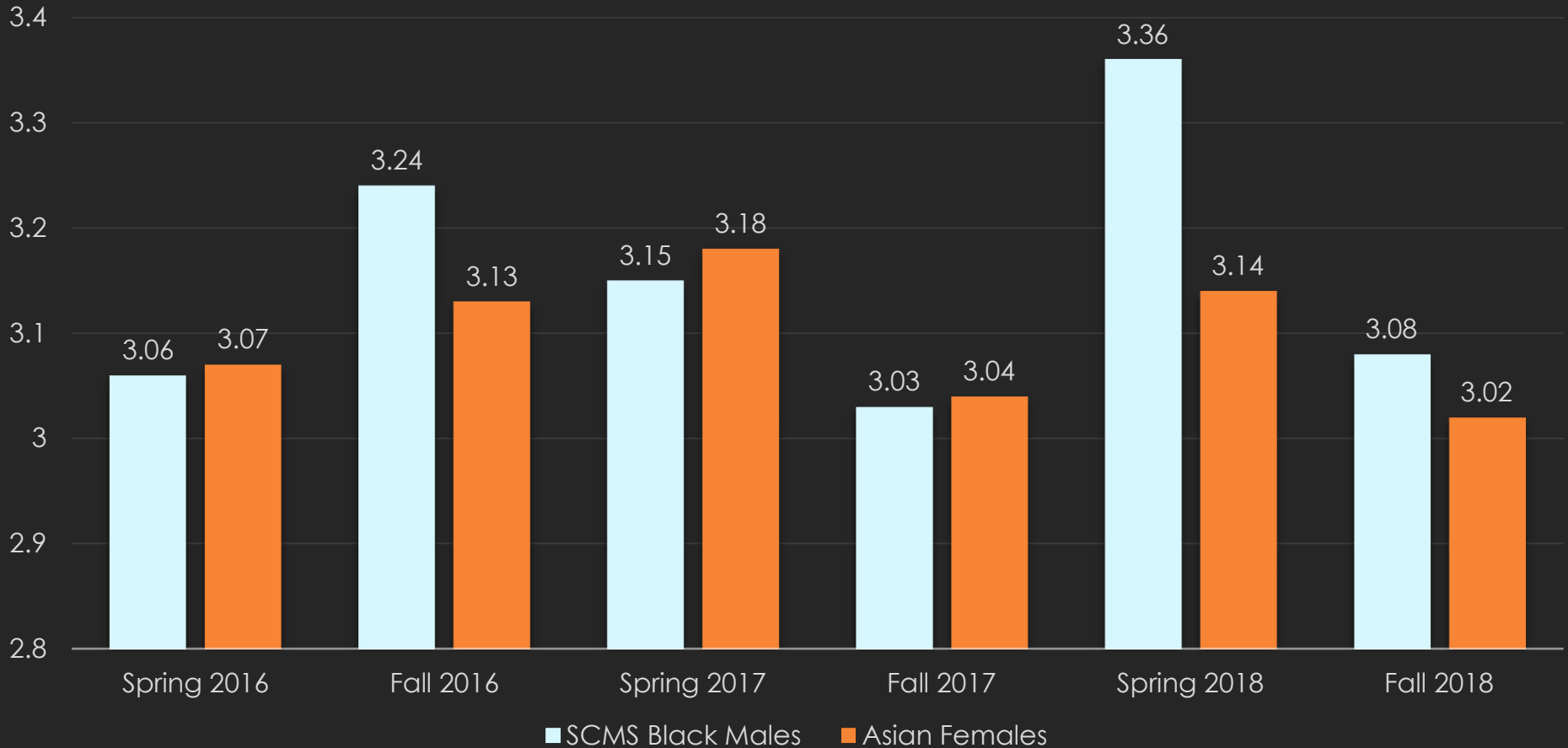
Black Males in the program: 3.06





<u>Term</u>	<u>SCMS</u>	<u>Other Black Males</u>	<u>Campuswide</u>
Spring 2016	3.06	2.04	2.40
Fall 2016	3.24	1.99	2.42
Spring 2017	3.15	2.09	2.52
Fall 2017	3.03	2.10	2.59
Spring 2018	3.36	2.38	2.78
Fall 2018	3.08	2.22	2.69

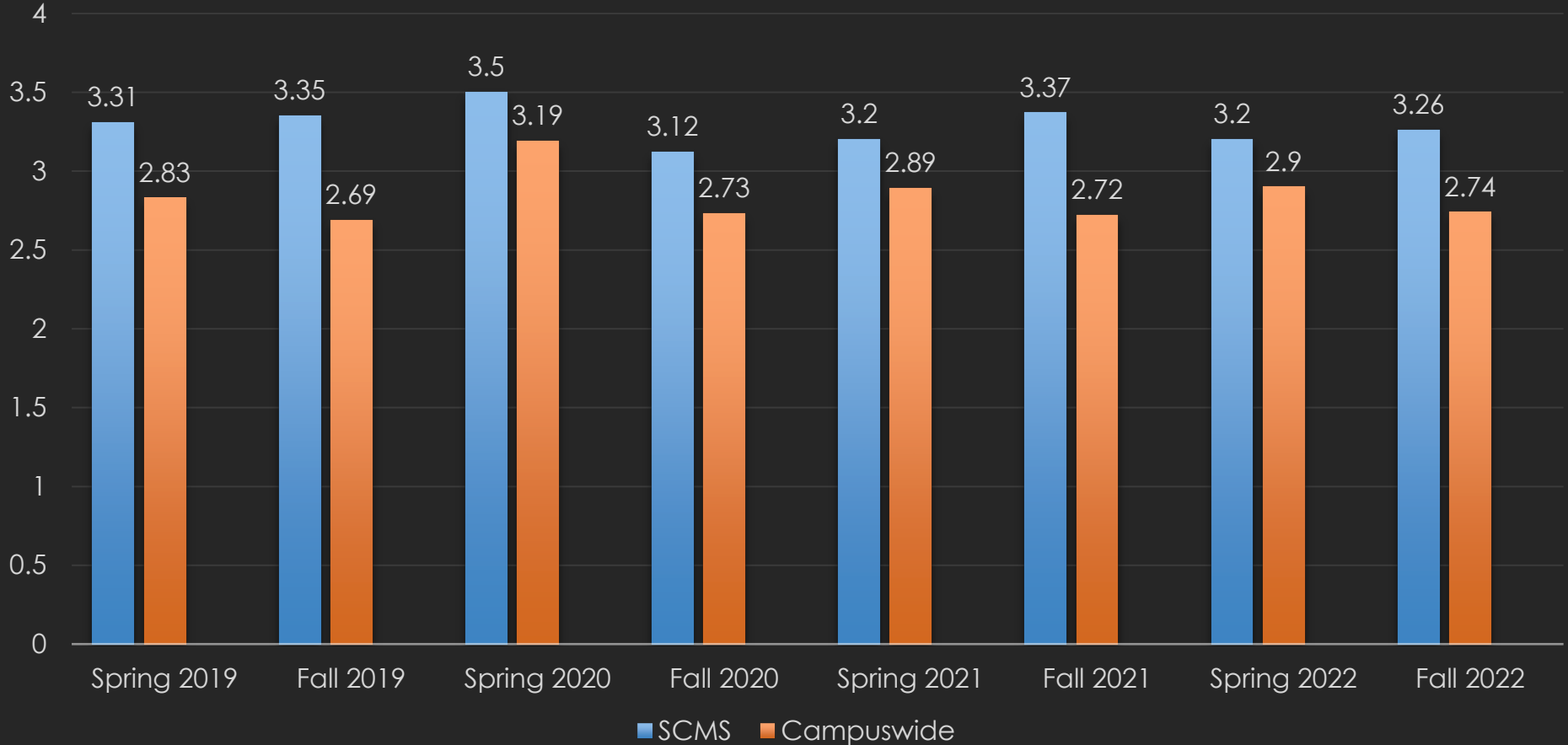
SCMS Black males compared to Asian Females



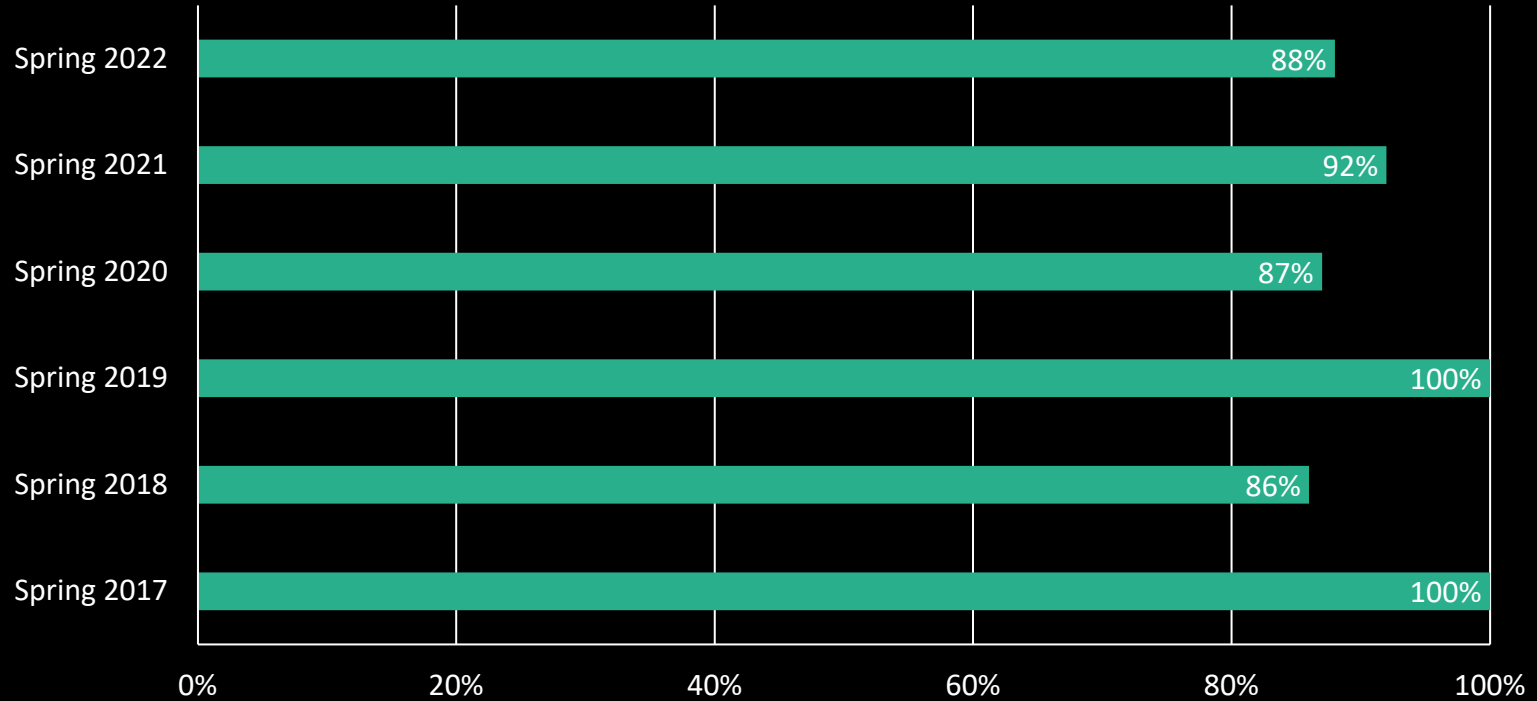
Expansion in 2019



SCMS Overall GPAs



Percentage of Graduates Who Transfer to Four-Year Institutions



Recent Focus



Mental Health and Wellness



SUCCESS FACTORS

- President and Board support
- Dedicated staff and budget
- Flexible mentorship models
- Sensitivity to student needs
- Allow students to guide the program
- Services beyond graduation



“I am a teacher.
There is no
magic here. I do
not walk on
water. I do not
part the sea. I
just love
children.”

Marva Collins



Questions & Discussion

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DR. MAUTRA STALEY JONES, OCCC PRESIDENT, AND STUDENTS