



Cedar Valley College

DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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**\*\*\*\* MEDIA ADVISORY \*\*\***

**National Epidemic Announced on the Decline of African American Males in College  
Local College Chancellor & President Launch Proactive Efforts to Change Trend**

Dallas, Texas --- A recent report from the American Council on Education confirmed statistics that indicate that across the nation, an alarming trend has occurred regarding the number of males (ages 18-24), specifically African Americans who choose to attend college as compared to their female counterparts. Further, this trend extends into the college level as fewer males are continuing on through graduation (40% males vs. 60% females).

The Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD) is not immune from these patterns, in fact there is sufficient evidence that the District is in a crisis regarding African American male attendance and retention rates. The ACE report indicated that this may be due to attendant attitudes about education verses work that are prevalent in some minority communities while other reasons are related to:

- Choosing to pursue goals of immediate economic gratification
- Lack of programs that engage men (instructional and support)
- Fewer directed student services for males
- Campus environments which may alienate men
- Marketing and promotions that emphasize women

In response to this epidemic, The DCCCD has a number of initiatives in place which includes:

- Mentoring programs designed for male students
- Special focus recruitment and support, activities and events
- Special focus classes for male interest
- Advisement, counseling and tutoring programs
- Grant funded projects that address this specific issue

Dr. Andrew Jones, DCCCD Vice Chancellor for Educational Affairs, and Dr. Jennifer Wimbish, President of Cedar Valley College, have taken this subject to heart. They are working with the President's Roundtable, an organization comprised of African American executive level community college representatives, to make this a major initiative to improve upon. Through their work with this group, Dr. Jones and Dr. Wimbish are a part of a committee that is developing a strategic plan to combat this trend. They have spoken about this issue at several national conferences, and the DCCCD has incorporated strategies to combat this issue into its Academic Master Plan.

**For Interviews with Dr. Jones or Dr. Wimbish,  
Please contact Sonya Spencer, 972-860-8142.**