

## News Release

*For Release:* March 18, 2014

*Contact:* DU Media Relations

*Phone:* 720-608-0240

*Email:* [dumediarelations@gmail.com](mailto:dumediarelations@gmail.com)



## Drop Out Rates Among Ethnic Minorities Plague American Colleges

*University of Denver Professor Develops New Model for More Inclusive Campuses*

DENVER – March 18, 2014 – Universities struggle when it comes to improving the success rates of increasingly diverse student bodies. As a remedy, Dr. Sam Museus, associate professor of higher education at the University of Denver has developed a new model to help colleges support racially diverse students.

Professor Museus created the “Culturally Engaging Campus Environments (CECE) Model” to assist universities in strategically improving retention and matriculation rates by using more than 100 surveys and two decades of analysis. The model demonstrates how campus environments influence success among minority students—an increasingly important demographic within higher education.

College success rates are dismal. Half of all students entering college won’t complete a bachelor’s degree within six years. Additionally, the rates of completion are significantly lower for many racial and ethnic minority populations. According to Museus, “The low rates of completion result in unfilled jobs in highly skilled professions, higher rates of unemployment and lower tax revenues across the nation.

To help colleges address this epidemic, Museus’ CECE Model measures students’ level of access to, cultural communities, classes that are relevant to their heritage and overall holistic support across the institution. According to Dr. Museus, “The CECE Model and Survey provides colleges with a roadmap regarding how they may intentionally structure campus environments to maximize success among diverse students.”

Museus is collaborating with the Research and Policy Institute at Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA) to unveil the CECE tools to college administrators from campuses across the nation at NASPA’s 2014 annual convention in Baltimore, MD this week. They will examine how these tools may facilitate positive institutional transformation on campuses across the country.

**About the CECE Project:** The CECE Project is aimed at aiding postsecondary institutions in cultivating environments that maximize success among racially diverse populations. The CECE Project Website will be launched in the beginning of 2014 and will include information about how institutions can access the CECE Survey and use it on their campuses. For more information, contact Dr. Samuel Museus at [Sam.Museus@du.edu](mailto:Sam.Museus@du.edu).

-30-

*Founded in 1864, the University of Denver is committed to improving the human condition and engaging students and faculty in tackling the major issues of our day. In 2014, the University of Denver will celebrate its sesquicentennial with a full calendar of events and programs that not only honor the institution’s 150-year commitment to serving students, the community and the public good, but that look forward to a future of continued achievement and innovation. The University of Denver ranks among the top 100 national universities in the U.S. For additional information, subscribe to The University of Denver [Newsfeed](#), visit the [sesquicentennial website](#) or follow the University on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).*