



# Programs to Improve Outcomes for Underrepresented Students

March 2011



# Introduction

# What is a Learning Community Program?

Learning communities are characterized by a common sense of purpose that can be used to build a sense of group identity, cohesiveness, and uniqueness. It encourages continuity and the integration of diverse curricular and co-curricular experiences. A Learning Community Program aims to restructure the curriculum by forming linkages between students, faculty and student services staff into common cohorts. Learning Community Programs stress the development of relationships between academic work and intellectual and social interaction with the world of work and advanced learning.

-Schroeder & Mabel 1994

# Learning Community Program Models

## **LINKED COURSES**

- This model links two or more common courses for a single cohort.
- A content based course is typically supported by a skills course to provide a shared experience for students.

## **LEARNING CLUSTERS**

- This model is similar to the Linked Courses model except that courses from different disciplines are linked for a single cohort.
- Courses are generally based on a theme, historical period, issue, or problem.
- There is often a seminar component to the cluster.

## **FRESHMEN INTEREST GROUPS**

- This model links freshmen courses based on a theme within an academic discipline.
- There is a peer advising component that allows freshmen to discuss course work and college adjustment problems.

## **SDCCD LEARNING COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

- The SDCCD colleges and Continuing Ed. use aspects of the three traditional models listed. Additionally, the categorical programs (e.g., DSPS, EOPS and CalWORKS) contain many of these elements and so for purposes of this reported are included.

# Learning Community Programs at SDCCD

## City College

CalWORKS

DSPS

EOPS/CARE

FYE

HUBU\*

MESA

Puente Project

TRIO

Umoja

## Miramar College

CalWORKS

DSPS

EOPS/CARE

FYE

TRIO

## Mesa College

African American, Latino Male Summit

DSPS

EOPS/CARE

FAST Scholars – Foster Youth

FYE

Heroes to Healthcare\*

Mesa Academy

Puente Project

TRIO/STAR

## Continuing Education

CalWORKS

DSPS

New Horizons

\* Program is too new for reliable data reporting.

# Learning Community Programs - Descriptions

## **CalWORKS**

- Offers support services to students who receive TANF/CalWORKS benefits.
- Provides vocational/academic counseling, job placement, work study placement, and other services designed to support students' careers, education, and personal goals.

## **DSPS (Disabled Student Programs & Services)**

- Supports the inclusion of students with disabilities into the campus community.
- Offers eligible students access to a variety of specialized support services and assistive equipment as well as preparatory, skill maintenance, and personal growth courses.

## **EOPS (Extended Opportunities Programs & Services)**

- Provides special recruitment, counseling, retention, and support services to increase college enrollment for individuals who may not have considered college to be an option.

## **TRIO**

- Assists low-income, first-generation to college, and disabled students progress through the academic pipeline to post baccalaureate programs via education outreach and support programs.

# Learning Community Program - Descriptions

## **African American, Latino Male Leadership Summit**

- Designed to address declining enrollment of African American and Latino male students in higher education.
- Empowers, educates, and supports African American and Latino young men in their personal and professional endeavors through workshops and orientation to college.

## **FAST Scholars/Foster Youth**

- Provides assistance to foster youth students currently enrolled in college and to high school seniors making the transition to college.

## **FYE (First Year Experience)**

- Helps high school seniors transition into college by providing a prescriptive program plan, application assistance, early registration, college orientation, and counseling and assessment services.

# Learning Community Program - Descriptions

## **HUBU – Hermanos Unidos**

- The HUBU mission is to increase faculty and student interaction; promote community, cultural, and gender identity development, and encourage peer-to-peer interaction between students.

## **Heroes to Healthcare**

- Offers a Mental Health Worker Certificate of Achievement that provides students with the skills necessary to find employment in the a variety of related fields.

## **MESA (Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement)**

- Supports economically and educationally disadvantaged students excel in math, engineering, and science-based majors and to successfully transfer to four-year institutions through tutoring and other support services.

## **Mesa Academy**

- Provides African American students enrolled at Mesa College with career and counseling services, reading and writing skill development, and helps students identify strategies for success in the face of adversity.



# Learning Community Program - Descriptions

## **New Horizons**

- Helps low income vocational students with book loans and transportation services.

## **Puente Program**

- Assists educationally disadvantaged students adjust to college and prepare for transfer to four-year institutions through writing and personal growth instruction, counseling, and mentoring.

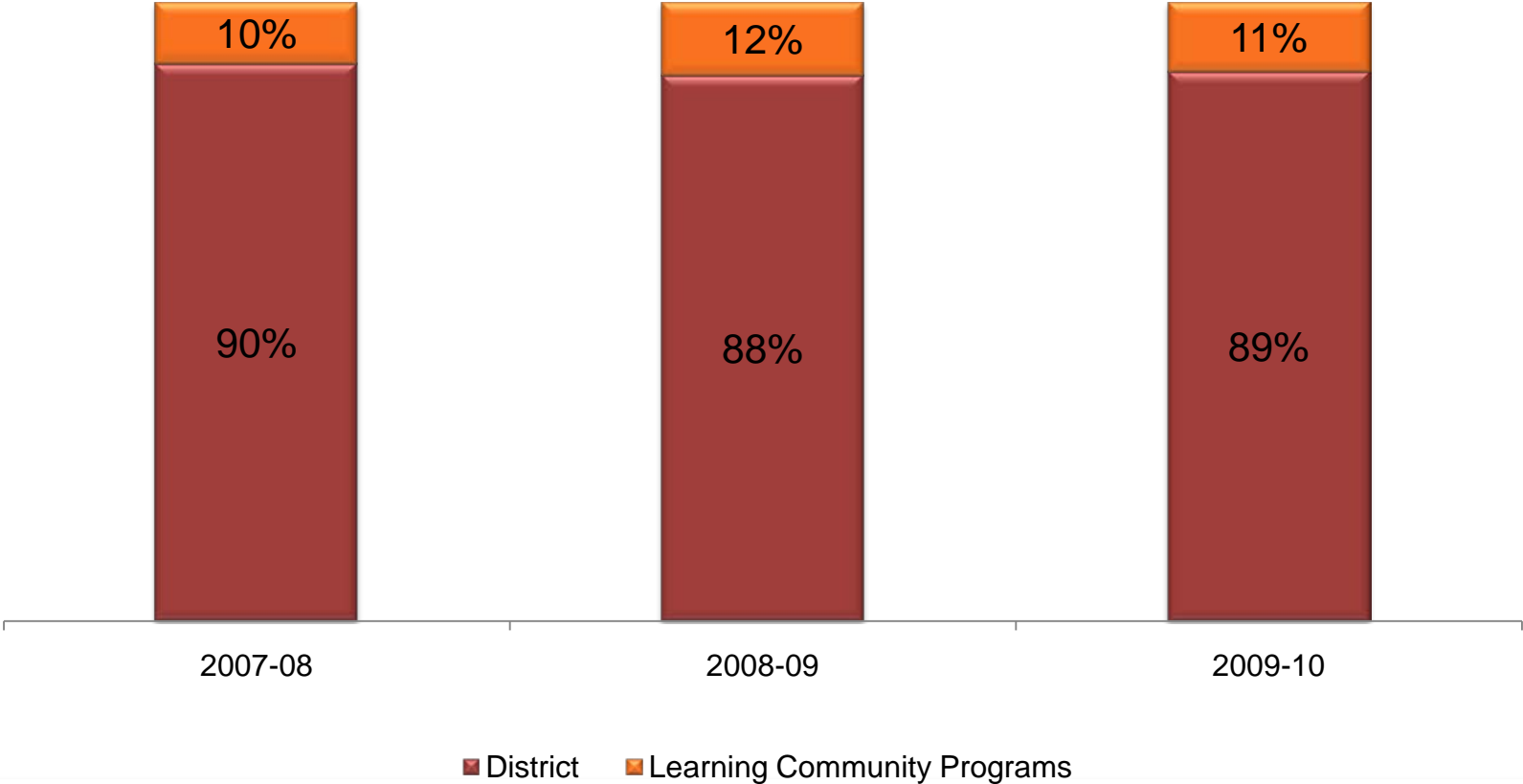
## **Umoja**

- Seeks to engage, connect, educate, support and encourage African American and other students through a series of courses that prepare them for transfer to 4-year institutions.
- Course materials, discussion, and activities focus on African American culture, literature, and experiences.

- Enrollment
- Headcount
- Persistence

# Enrollment: Districtwide

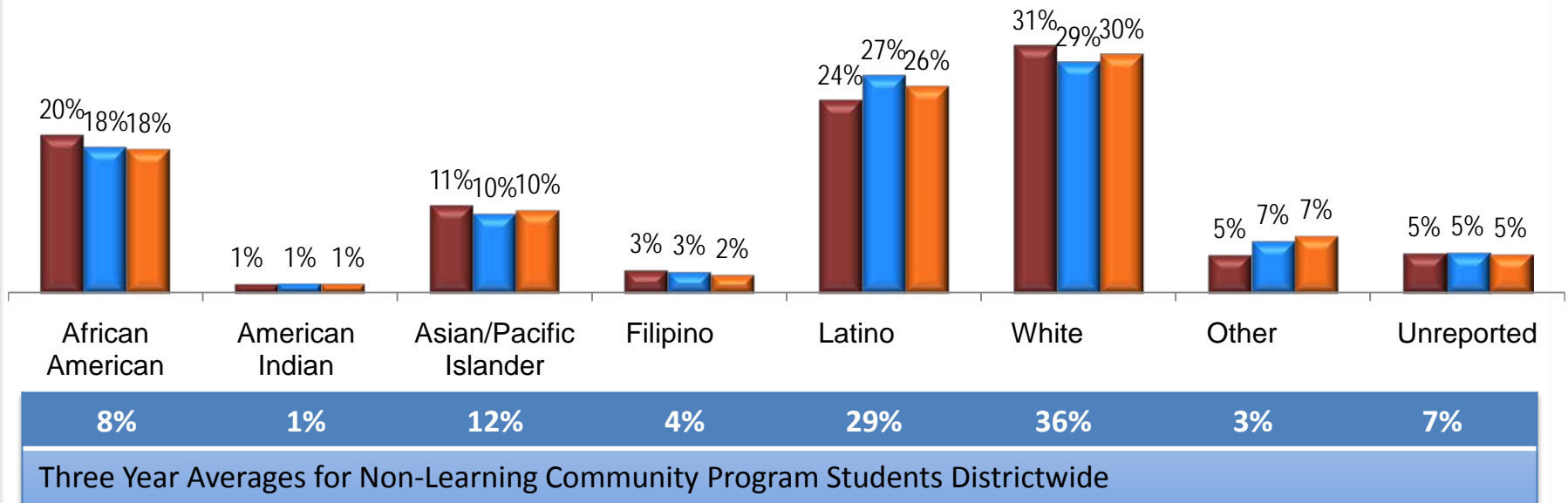
From 2007-08 to 2009-10, Learning Community Program students averaged 11% of all District enrollments (duplicated headcount).



# Headcount by Ethnicity: Districtwide

- Over the past three years underrepresented groups collectively made up the largest percentage of the Learning Community Program population.
- The average proportion of African American students in Learning Community Programs is higher (19%) compared to the Districtwide average (8%).
- The average proportion of Latino students in the Learning Community Programs (26%) is slightly less than the Districtwide average (29%).

■ 2007-08  
 ■ 2008-09  
 ■ 2009-10



# Annual Headcount by College

## City College

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
CalWORKS	261	372	433
DSPS	793	879	918
EOPS/CARE	850	1,158	651
FYE	41	146	134
MESA	95	175	201
Puente Project	33	53	33
TRIO	275	290	302
Umoja	0	250	124

## Miramar College

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
CalWORKS	80	111	148
DSPS	334	370	440
EOPS/CARE	557	601	383
FYE	32	104	91
TRIO	195	205	202

## Mesa College

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
DSPS	844	899	994
EOPS/CARE	1,067	1,072	690
TRIO/STAR	360	376	379
AA/L Male Summit	18	36	17
FAST Scholars – Foster Youth	11	26	42
FYE	51	295	287
Mesa Academy	59	37	116
Puente Project	56	44	33

## Continuing Education

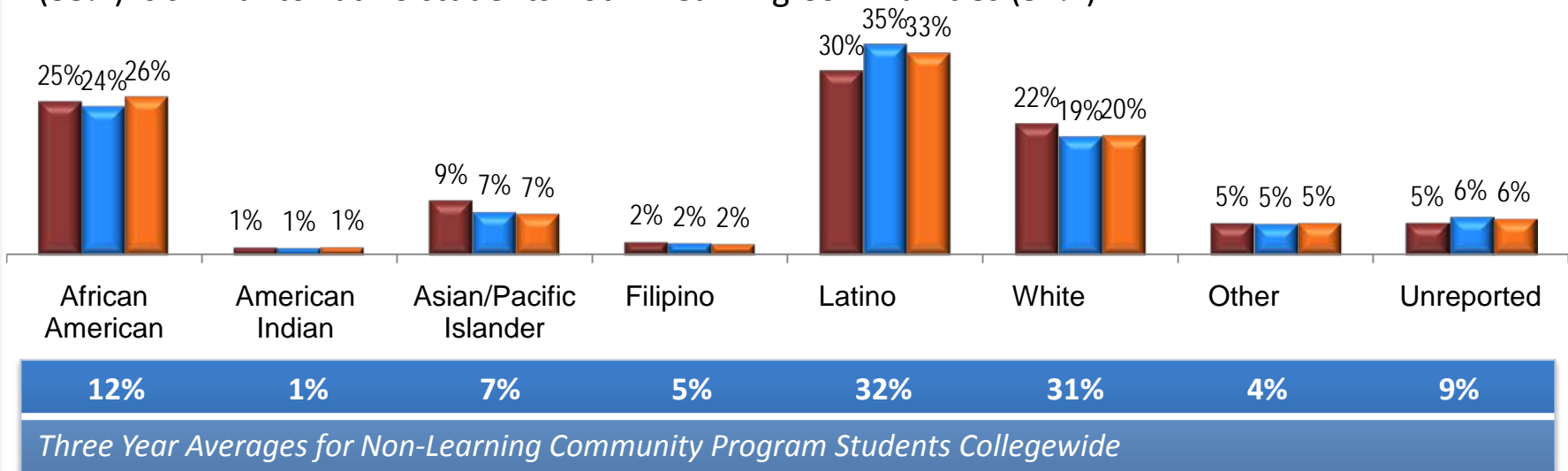
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
CalWORKS	639	811	877
DSPS	1,804	1,842	1,952
New Horizons	144	147	136

Note: Some students may be enrolled in more than one program accounting for some duplication across programs.

# Headcount by Ethnicity: City College

- The number of students in Learning Community Programs at City increased by 19% from 2007-08 to 2009-10 (1,948 to 2,323).
- Learning Communities averaged 16% of City enrollments from 2007-08 to 2009-10.
- The average proportion of African American students in Learning Community Programs at City is higher (25%) compared to African American students not in Learning Communities (12%).
- The average proportion of Latino students in the Learning Community Programs (33%) is similar to Latino students not in Learning Communities (32%).

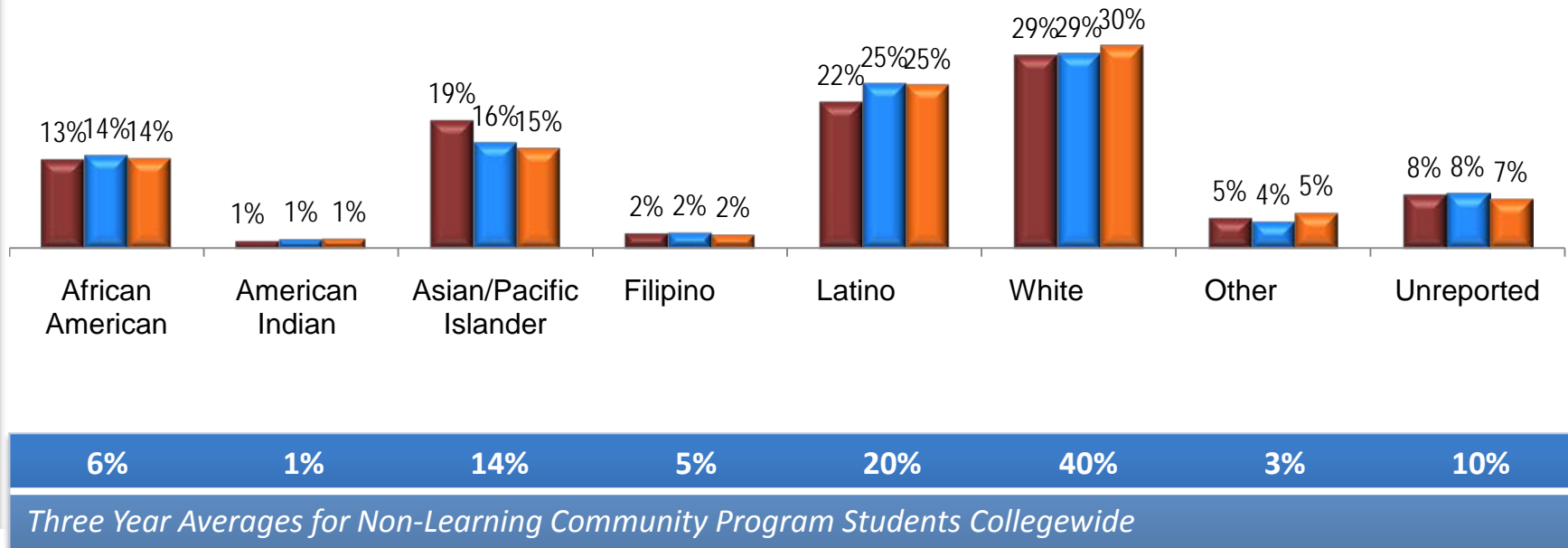
■ 2007-08  
 ■ 2008-09  
 ■ 2009-10



# Headcount by Ethnicity: Mesa College

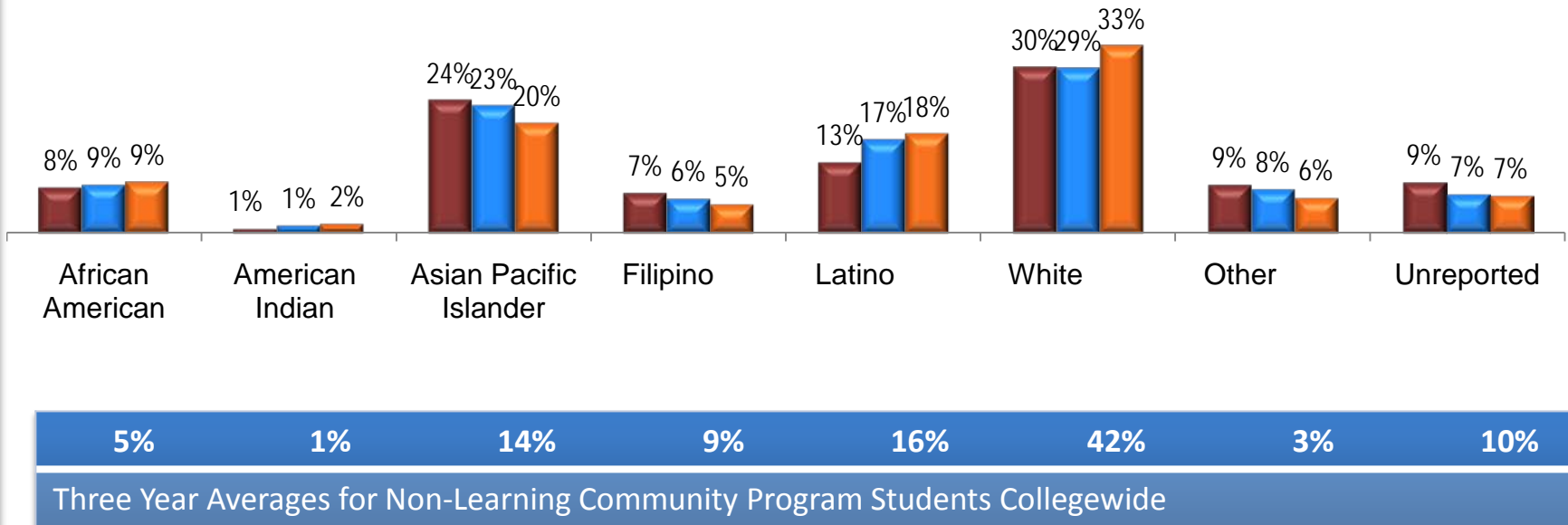
- The number of students in Learning Community Programs at Mesa increased 6% over three years: 2,078 in 2007-08, 2,332 in 2008-09 and 2,205 in 2009-10.
- Learning Communities averaged 10% of Mesa College enrollments from 2007-08 to 2009-10.
- The average proportion of African American students in Learning Community Programs at Mesa is higher (14%) compared to African American students not in Learning Communities (6%).
- The average proportion of Latino students in the Learning Community Programs (24%) is slightly higher than Latino students not in Learning Communities (20%).

■ 2007-08  
 ■ 2008-09  
 ■ 2009-10



# Headcount by Ethnicity: Miramar College

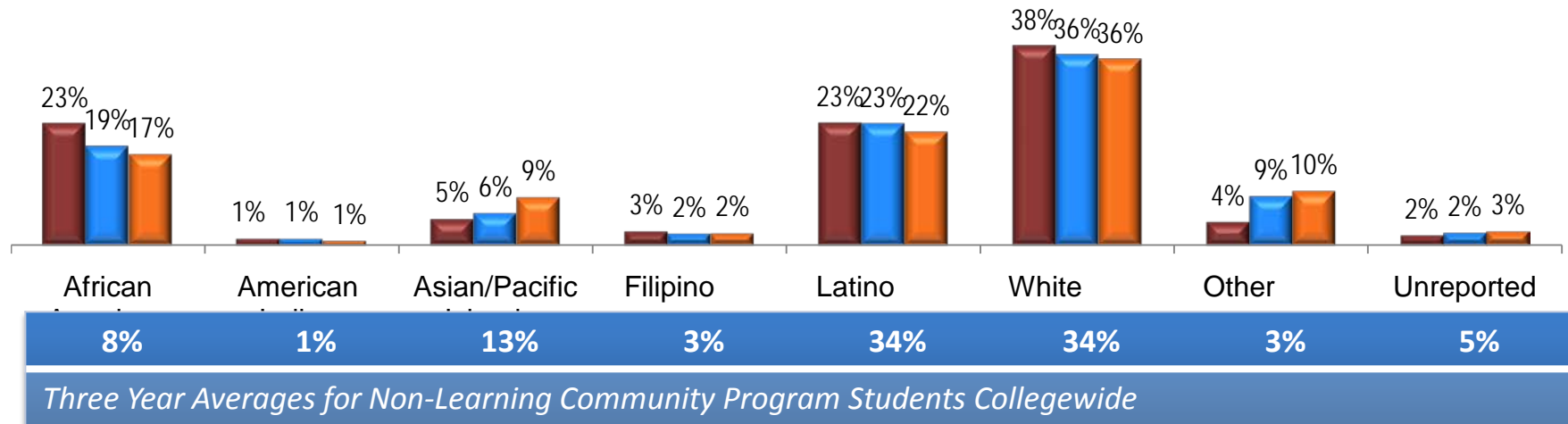
- The number of students in Learning Community Programs at Miramar increased 6% between 2007-08 to 2009-10 :1,002 in 2007-08, 1,154 in 2008-09 and 1,058 in 2009-10
- Learning Communities averaged 10% of Miramar College enrollments from 2007-08 to 2009-10.
- The average proportion of African American students in Learning Community Programs at Miramar is higher (9%) compared to African American students not in Learning Communities (5%).
- The average proportion of Latino students in the Learning Community Programs (16%) is similar to Latino students not in Learning Communities (16%).





# Headcount by Ethnicity: Continuing Education

- The number of students in Learning Community Programs at Continuing Education has increased 15% over three years: 2,552 in 2007-08, 2,764 in 2008-09 and 2,939 in 2009-10.
- Learning Communities averaged 7% of Continuing Education enrollments from 2007-08 to 2009-10.
- The average proportion of African American students in Learning Community Programs at Continuing Education is higher (20%) compared to African American students not in Learning Communities (8%).
- The average proportion of Latino students in the Learning Community Programs (23%) is lower than Latino students not in Learning Communities (34%).



# Fall to Spring Term Persistence

## All Colleges\*

- The average persistence rate for all LC Program students was 83% compared to 69% for all first time students at all colleges.

## City College

- The average persistence rate for all LC Program students was 77% compared to 60% for all first time students at City. The Learning Community Programs with the highest term persistence rate on average were the FYE and Puente program (86% each).

## Mesa College

- The average persistence rate for all LC Program students was 77% compared to 67% for all first time students at Mesa. The Puente program and FYE program had the highest increase in term persistence (21% and 4%, respectively).

## Miramar College

- The average persistence rate for all LC Program students was 73% compared to 62% for all first time students at Miramar . The FYE program has the highest term persistence rate on average (89%).

*\*The persistence rate for the All Colleges Learning Community Programs includes students who may have persisted from one college to any of the other colleges in the District, accounting for a higher persistence rate.*

# Outcomes

- Retention
- Success
- Degrees & Certificates
- Transfer

# Retention and Success - Highlights

## All Colleges

- The average retention rate for all Learning Community students between 2007-2010 was slightly higher (85%) compared to the average retention rate for all non-Learning Community students during this same time (84%).
- The average success rate for all Learning Community students between 2007-2010 was slightly lower (65%) compared to the average success rate for all non-Learning Community students during this same time (67%).

## City College

- The average retention rate for all Learning Community students between 2007-2010 was slightly higher (85%) compared to the average retention rate for all non-Learning Community students during this same time (83%).
- The average success rate for all Learning Community students between 2007-2010 was slightly lower (63%) compared to the average success rate for all non-Learning Community students during this same time (64%).

# Retention and Success - Highlights

## **Mesa College**

- The average retention rate for all Learning Community students between 2007-2010 was slightly higher (85%) compared to the average retention rate for all non-Learning Community students during this same time (83%).
- The average success rate for all Learning Community students between 2007-2010 was slightly lower (66%) compared to the average success rate for all non-Learning Community students during this same time (68%).

## **Miramar College**

- The average retention rate for all Learning Community students between 2007-2010 was slightly higher (88%) compared to the average retention rate for all non-Learning Community students during this same time (86%).
- The average success rate for all Learning Community students between 2007-2010 was slightly lower (70%) compared to the average success rate for all non-Learning Community students during this same time (72%).

# Degrees, Certificates and Transfer

## Volume

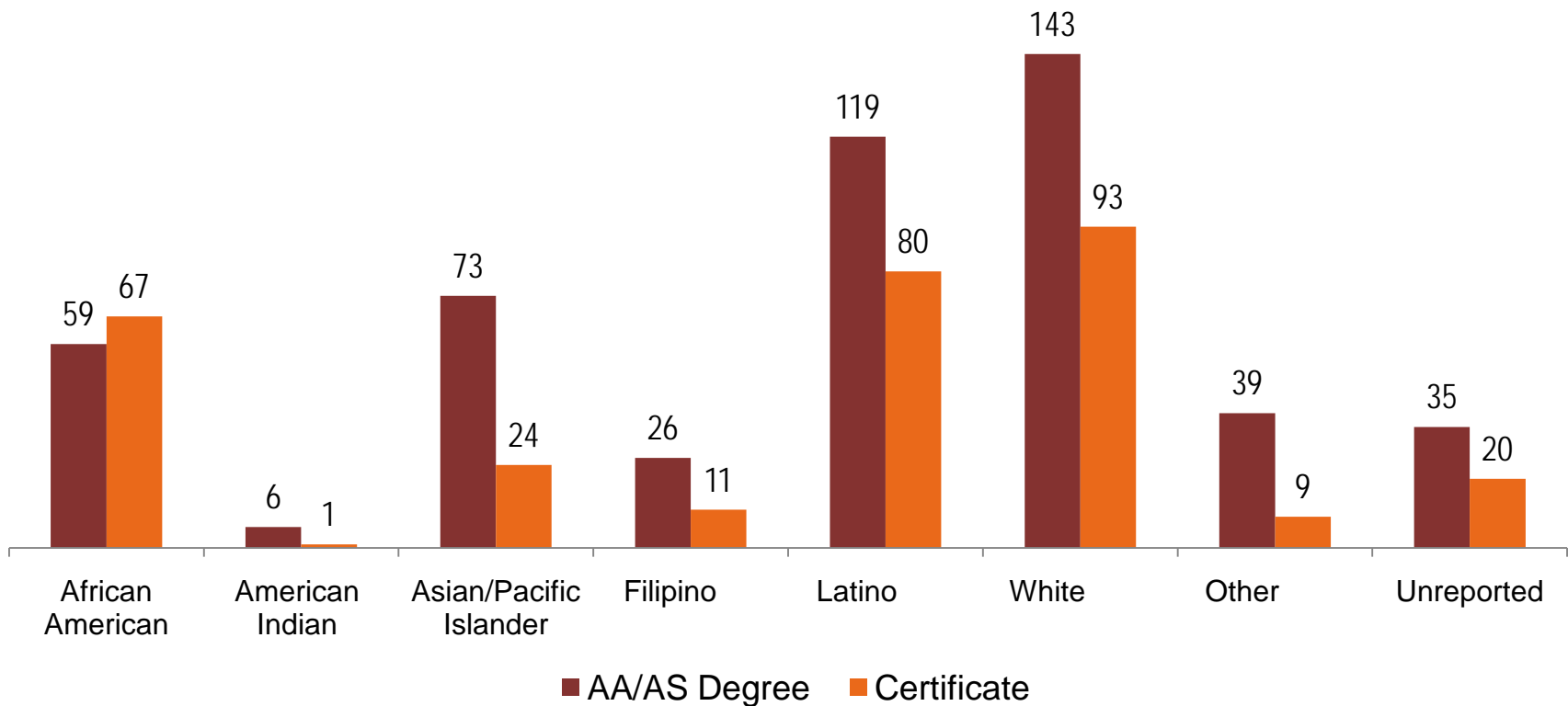
- Across all of the Learning Community Programs at all colleges, Whites and Latinos had the greatest transfer volume between 2007-08 and 2009-10 (200 and 168, respectively), followed by African-Americans (93).
- Overall, White and Latino students in all Learning Community Programs across all colleges and Continuing Education were awarded the greatest number of Associate Degrees and Certificates between 2007-08 and 2009-10 (236 and 199 respectively).

## 2006-07 Cohort

- Students in the New Horizon program at Continuing Education received a greater number of certificates compared to DSPS students from 2006-10 (39 and 17, respectively).
- DSPS and EOPS students were awarded the greatest number of Associate Degrees and certificates.

# Degrees and Certificates: Districtwide

•Counts are combined totals for all Learning Community Program students for academic years 2007-08 to 2009-10. There were **713** LC Program students who received awards: 500 Degrees and 305 Certificates.



# Degrees and Certificates of 2006-07 Cohort: **Districtwide**

	Cohort 06-07	No. Students Received Awards	AA/AS Degree	Certificate
DSPS	3,096	337	9%	4%
EOPS/CARE	1,942	488	22%	8%
Horizon	141	39	1%	28%
Mesa Academy	54	6	11%	0%
MESA	89	29	30%	8%
Puente Program	45	3	7%	0%
TRIO	574	229	37%	8%

**2006 Student Right to Know Completion Rates: City, 14%, Mesa 23%, Miramar 28%**

*Note: 2006-07 cohort was tracked over four academic years and includes approximately 21% duplication across programs.*



# Degrees and Certificates of 2006-07 Cohort

## City College

	Cohort 06-07	No. Students	AA/AS Degree	Cert.
DSPS	782	133	14%	7%
EOPS/CARE	937	171	14%	7%
MESA	85	26	28%	7%
TRIO	263	76	27%	5%

## Mesa College

	Cohort 06-07	No. Students	AA/AS Degree	Cert.
DSPS	822	133	15%	5%
EOPS/CARE	1,026	187	17%	3%
Mesa Acad.	54	5	9%	0%
Puente	45	3	7%	0%
TRIO	345	95	27%	4%

## Miramar College

	Cohort 06-07	No. Students	AA/AS Degree	Cert.
DSPS	394	64	13%	7%
EOPS/CARE	594	130	20%	7%
TRIO	190	56	27%	8%

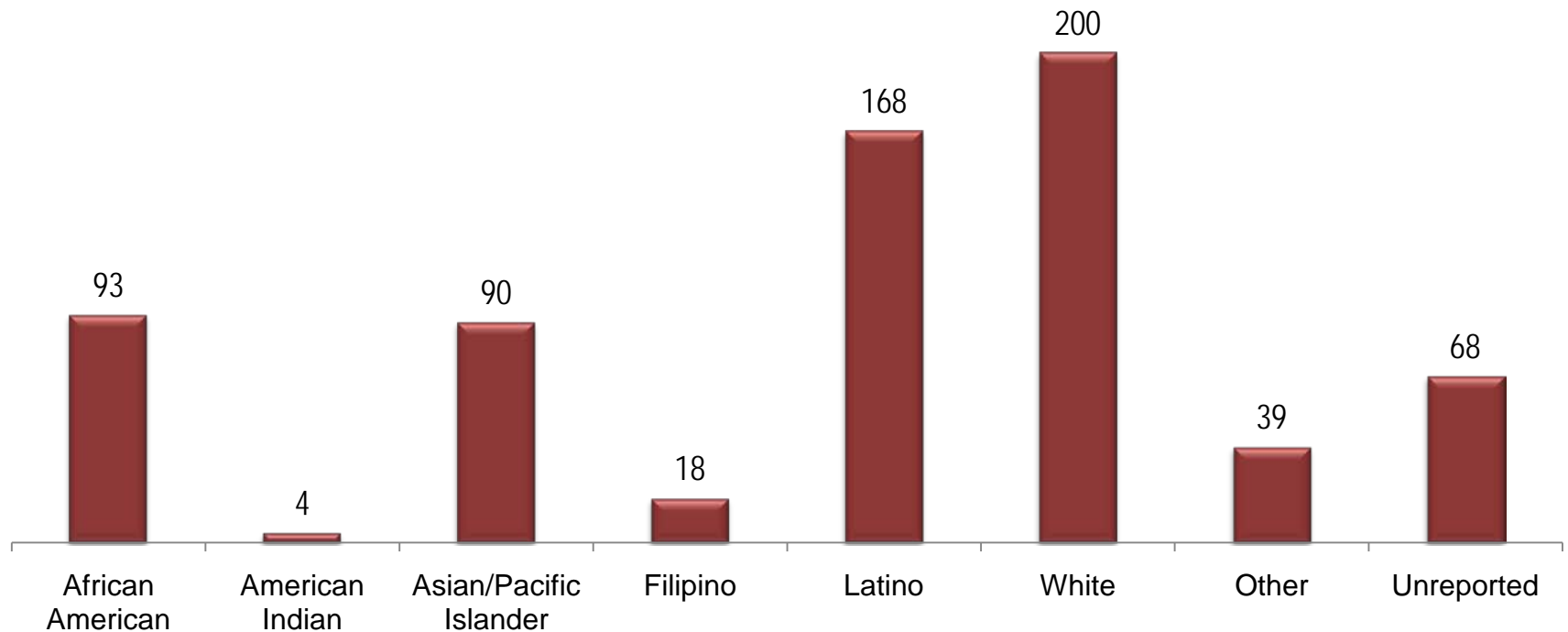
## Continuing Education

	Cohort 06-07	No. Students	Cert.
DSPS	1,647	17	1%
New Horizons	140	39	28%

*Note: 2006/07 cohort was tracked over four academic years. Some students may have been enrolled in multiple LC Programs so there may be duplication across programs.*

# Transfer by Ethnicity: Districtwide

•Counts are combined totals for academic years 2007-08 through 2009-10 and total **680 transfers** over three years.



# Transfer Rate of 2006-07 Cohort

## City College

	Cohort No. 06-07	No. Students	Transfer Rate
DSPS	782	83	11%
EOPS/CARE	937	128	14%
MESA	85	35	41%
TRIO	263	95	36%

## All Colleges

	Cohort 06-07	No. Students	Transfer Rate
DSPS	1,664	273	16%
EOPS/CARE	1,942	469	24%
Mesa Acdmy	54	11	20%
MESA	89	40	45%
Puente	45	4	9%
TRIO	574	245	43%

## Mesa College

	Cohort 06-07	No. Students	Transfer Rate
DSPS	822	128	16%
EOPS/CARE	1,026	209	20%
Mesa Acdmy	54	11	20%
Puente	45	4	9%
TRIO	345	95	28%

## Miramar College

	Cohort 06-07	No. Students	Transfer Rate
DSPS	394	62	16%
EOPS/CARE	594	132	22%
TRIO	190	55	29%

**2006 Student Right to Know Transfer Rates: City, 16%, Mesa 22%, Miramar 19%**

*Note: 2006-07 cohort was tracked over four academic years and includes approximately 16% -19% duplication across programs.*

IRRP

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