Community-Engaged College Access: Model-building Expanded Service Delivery to Increase Post-Secondary Participation In High Poverty Contexts

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Multiple-Methods Participatory Action Research

### Photovoice focus groups/Interviews
- 16 community-co-researchers
  - Six high school students (three African American males, two African American females, one White female)
  - Four first-year college students (two African American males, one African American female, and one White female)
  - Four parent/community members (four African American females).
- Photographed 10 “trusted locations” in the community.
- Focus group indicated college access challenges outside a high school environment include transportation, hours of operation, safety, and location within the community.
- Individual interviews revealed money, work, time, family commitments, and low social capital are challenges to getting college information.
- Photovoice, focus group, and interview data provided the framework for Q sort/methodology.

### Q Methodology
- Q-methodology is a systematic study of participant viewpoints. Identifying different perspectives on or attitudes towards topics of public concern is an ideal context for Q.
- Q-methodology is administered through a card/photo sorting activity to investigate the and compare perspectives for Consensus and Disagreement.
- Participants sorted and ranked 26 community location photographs for “Most Trusted” and “Least Trusted” places to distribute college information and support application submissions.
- Participant responses were analyzed using factor analysis using PQMethod software.

### Photovoice
- Four parent/community members (four African American females).
- Four first-year college students (two African American males, one African American female, and one White female).
- Six high school students (three African American males, two African American females, one White female).

### Results

#### Distinguishing statements (3 Factor Solution)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Factor 1</th>
<th>Factor 2</th>
<th>Factor 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Factor 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Factor 2</td>
<td>0.014 -0.109 -0.233</td>
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<tr>
<td>Factor 3</td>
<td>-0.273 0.014 0.207</td>
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#### Q Sort Community Participant Age - Count

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Age Group</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>36-45</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>46-55</td>
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<td>56-65</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Over 65</td>
<td>6</td>
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#### Q Sort Community Participant Gender - Count

<table>
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<th>Count</th>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>15</td>
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</table>

### Conceptual framework – Community-Engaged College Access

- Present-mindedness of poverty
- Community trust buffers the impact of present-mindedness
- Social capital knowledge of (and trust in) college options and processes
- Individual human capital college choice

### Post-sort questionnaire results
1. Participants most frequently associated trusted locations for college and financial applications with locations with longevity in the community, familiar and safe environments, and locations most often associated with supporting education and/or workforce development.
2. Participants associated least trusted locations with lack of safety, places not known for social capital, and places associated with large school counselor to student caseload limits availability (Snyder, 2016, p. 20).
3. Low-income, minority parents are involved in high schools at lower rates (Snyder, 2016, p. 20).
4. Despite high school supports, college access supports not readily available outside of high schools (Snyder, 2016, p. 20).
5. Federal financial aid supports college access services to be provided outside of a high school environment (Deming, Dynarski, 2009).
6. To address and help with financial aid application (Epstein, 2002), and current parental decision rise (Glaeser, Laibson, Scheinkman, Soutter, 2000).

### Aim and Purpose

The purpose of this study is to explore model building for community-engaged college access services to be provided outside of a high school environment within a high poverty community. The study was conducted in the Mississippi Delta.