

A²MEND

AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE
EDUCATION NETWORK & DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Message from the President



As we concluded another year under historically unprecedented conditions, we at A²MEND reflect on the opportunities that we've experienced in 2021. Furthering our mission in the midst of a pandemic forced us to pivot in a such a way that ultimately reinforced our support and leadership among our affiliated institutions, student mentees and community partners.

While the pandemic impacted the way in which we organized events, it did not deter A²MEND and our supporters in being unapologetically committed to Black student success. A²MEND continued to hold our annual conference, which drew more than 400 attendees. Held in March,

the virtual event focused on our efforts of deepening our commitment to African American male success in the era of COVID-19.

A²MEND also resumed our Africa Study Abroad trip during the summer. I was excited to join our executive board members in accommodating a group of student mentees to Dubai, Egypt and Ghana. The excursion was truly a transformational one for our mentees, as they were able to experience their ancestral homeland with our leadership and fellow students. The trip was instrumental in ensuring that the identity of our students is inextricably connected to their self-efficacy and success. Also, I'm pleased to announce that our executive board returned to Africa in December to finalize the purchase of land in Ghana, where we plan to build a racial trauma treatment center, broadening A²MEND's audacious global impact.

Another highlight of 2021 was A²MEND's concerted efforts to share the impact of our work with policymakers. Our outreach efforts with our system stakeholders and the State Legislature led the Governor to reserve considerable funding for A²MEND in the State of California's 2022-23 budget. This funding will assist us with meeting our goal of expanding A²MEND student charters and building our mentor leadership across the state. In addition to our collaborative efforts with our system stakeholders and partners, we are proud of the strides that our coalition of supporters made during the year to develop the Aspiring Radical Leaders Institute. The Institute aims to create radical educators who promote issues of equity and race to help deconstruct and dismantle structural racism.

Perhaps the brightest highlight of 2021 was our A²MEND Leadership Academy – the heart of our organization. During the spring and summer, our Leadership Academy hosted bi-weekly webinars featuring thought-provoking topics of great interest to our African American male student population. Furthermore, A²MEND awarded more than \$40,000 in scholarships to our Leadership Academy students.

As we forge ahead with our plans to make an even deeper impact in the lives of African American young men, we realize that we're only able to carry out our mission because of the dedicated support of our leadership and community partners. With our growing support, we look forward to advancing A²MEND to even greater heights in the year ahead.

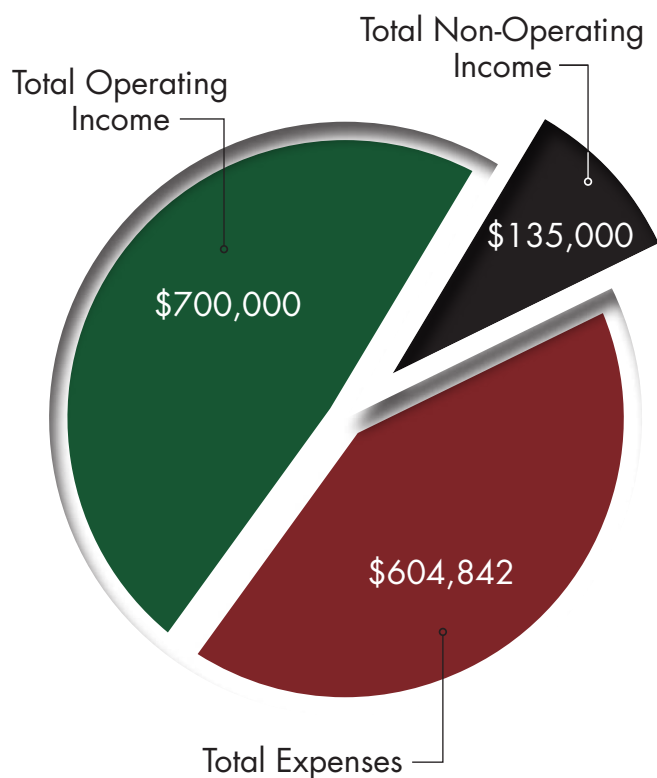
Our Mission

A²MEND's mission is to work to ensure the interest and success of African American students, faculty, staff and administrators at California's community colleges. A²MEND educators utilize their scholarly and professional expertise to foster institutional change within the community college system to increase success of African American male students.

Our Impact

- **\$500,000+** in scholarships awarded to students since 2006.
- Nearly **100** African American male students participated in the A²MEND Mentorship Program in 2020-21. Among this group, **75** students remained in college during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **26** active mentees participated in the A²MEND Leadership Academy in fall 2021.
- In 2021, **8** A²MEND mentees completed their Bachelor's Degrees, with one completing his Master's Degree.
- **20** of the **26** active mentees have successfully continued their studies by transferring to a CSU, UC or HBCU institution.

A²MEND 2021-22 Budget



NET INCOME\$230,158

TOTAL INCOME.....\$835,000

A²MEND Hosts Going All In Summit

A²MEND's annual summit, themed Going All In: Deepening Commitment to African American Male Success in the Era of COVID, was successfully executed and attended in March. The three-day virtual conference, which drew more than 400 people, featured two prominent keynote speakers – Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr. of Princeton University and motivational speaker Eric Thomas.

The summit opened with a pre-conference symposium hosted by the Women's Leadership Institute. The following day, the event presented a series of three workshops – Anti-Black Misandry and Its Societal Manifestations, Black Love is Black Liberation, and Addressing Students' Basic Needs with a Culture of Caring During the Pandemic. The final day of the conference presented two workshops – How to Make Change and Greater Than The Sum of Our Parts: Working in Solidarity.

The summit also hosted a special HBCU College Fair to give students an opportunity to learn about enrollment and key programs offered by Black colleges and universities.

Africa Study Abroad Trip Connects Students with Homeland

A²MEND's Study Abroad Program escorts student mentees on an exclusive trip to Africa each summer. The annual excursion enables students to explore the home of their ancestors, fortifying them with a stronger sense of cultural identity.



For the 2021 Africa Study Abroad Program, A²MEND executive board members accompanied student mentees on an extraordinary trip to Dubai, Egypt and Ghana. The trip not only educated the students about their African ancestral history, but also deepened their engagement with A²MEND leadership.

A²MEND executive board members returned to Africa in December as part of a land acquisition effort. A parcel of land was purchased in Ghana for the future construction of the A²MEND Racial Trauma and Wellness Retreat Center. The purpose of the Center is to provide a healing space where African American students and educators can be themselves and affirm who they are in a safe environment. The Center

also aims to give students and educators a stronger connection to their historical roots and cultural homeland.



Leadership Academy Thrives in 2021

The A²MEND Mentor Program – now known as the A²MEND Leadership Academy – has continued to thrive, despite the pandemic and the social unrest that intensified throughout the nation. The purpose of the Leadership Academy is to improve educational outcomes for African American male college students while creating a brotherhood with other Black student mentees throughout California’s community college system.



At the 2021 Annual A²MEND Summit, more than \$40,000 in scholarships were awarded to Leadership Academy students who resumed their educational pursuits at California community colleges or four-year universities. Six of the 33 scholarship recipients earned a bachelor’s degree, and one scholarship recipient earned a master’s degree. In addition, five graduates began serving in the Leadership Academy as peer mentors.

The Leadership Academy continued to host bi-weekly webinars in the spring and summer, thanks to

a collaboration with 38D Consulting. These webinars were well attended by both student mentees and charter advisors. Webinar topics included healthy relationships, racial battle fatigue, mental health and trauma management, volatile anger, and the evolution of Black leadership. Two Leadership Academy mentees hosted the webinars. UC Riverside student Yaw JP Wiafe facilitated a discussion on local minority students aiming to improve “Black and Blue” relations with the Riverside Police Department, and Moorpark College student Gerald Richardson organized a webinar hosted by Dr. Cornel West on the importance of young Black leadership. The dialogue during these webinars was so enriching that the topics will be revisited in a webinar series planned for spring 2022.

In the summer, A²MEND’s executive board members escorted four Leadership Academy students to Dubai, Egypt and Ghana. The cultural excursion experience was life changing for the students, as the trip profoundly connected them to their historical homeland of Africa.

A cohort of 26 new student mentees were selected for the 2021-22 Leadership Academy. A²MEND’s fall 2021 curriculum focused on core values, toxic leadership, creating a mission statement, home ownership opportunities, and the University of California system’s Underground Scholars Program. The student mentees also were scheduled to participate in various community service projects in early 2022.

A²MEND’s constant support

and sacrifice has allowed

me to successfully complete

many of my academic goals

and now work to provide

a better opportunity to

people from the community

I grew up in.

– A²MEND Student Mentee



www.a2mend.net

