

Diversity in the ECU Honors College

by

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A Signature Honors Project Presented to the

Honors College

East Carolina University

In Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements for

Graduation with Honors

by

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Abstract

The Honors College Diversity Academic Day is an idea proposed as a possible solution to the lack of minority students in East Carolina University's Honors College.

The goal of this project is to meet high school students from minority demographics to discuss the opportunities and experiences that would await them at East Carolina University by hosting an academic day. Based on the information gathered thus far, a percentage of minority students in the Honors college is estimated to be around six percent. However, the purpose of this project is to reassure high school students who are in the minority population that the honors college would be a safe and rewarding experience if they choose this university. Finally, this project would encompass a mentorship program for incoming minority freshman after the completion of the academic day, to guide the students throughout their college experience.

Mission Statement

Our goal is to foster a diverse community, culture, and ideas in the East Carolina University Honors College. We hope to promote a feeling of comfort for all members of the university, regardless of academic standing.

Additionally, we hope our findings are used to develop new relationships for the ECU Honors College and provide awareness on the life changing opportunities created by this program. Finally, we are highlighting the importance of diversity on a student's college experience.

How we came to this?

Kyia's groups' wicked problem that was researched in our Honors 2000 level course. Her group decided not to move forward with their project, so she shared the research and background and we discovered that there was indeed a lack of diversity in the honors program.

The idea is to reach out to minorities in high schools from our hometowns and surrounding areas and share the opportunities and scholarship they could earn from the ECU Honors College.



Taking on Diversity In the ECU Honors College

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ABSTRACT

The Honors College Diversity students day is an idea proposed as a possible solution to the lack of minority students in East Carolina University Honors College. The goal of this project is to meet high school students from minority backgrounds to inform the opportunities and experiences that would await them at East Carolina University.

by having an academic day. Aimed at the information gathered that the experience of diversity students in the Honors college.

it is intended to be used as a personal discovery the purpose of the project is to increase high school students who are in the minority population that the honors college would be a safe and rewarding experience if they choose this university. Finally this project would encourage a successful program.

RESULTS

Survey Data Summary

	1/16/2021	%	1/16/2021	%	1/16/2021	%	1/16/2021	%
Year Group (Status)	200	60%	100	30%				
Gender	100	33.3%	100	33.3%	100	33.3%	100	33.3%
Race	100	33.3%	100	33.3%	100	33.3%	100	33.3%
Age	100	33.3%	100	33.3%	100	33.3%	100	33.3%
Year Application Filed	200	60%	100	30%				

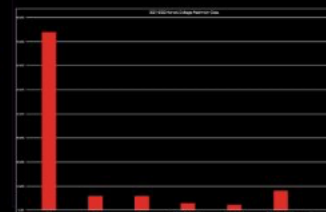
ECU Honors College, Honors College, Honors College, Honors College

Current Student Body Diversity Breakdown

	Count
American Indian	1
Asian	1
Black or African American	1
Hispanic	1
International Student	1
Latino	1
Native Hawaiian	1
Other	1
White	1

Student Body Diversity Breakdown

Below is the Underrepresented population as they apply to the Honors college.



DISCUSSION

- ECU Honors college
- Honors 1000
- Lack of Diversity
- Open house to increase diversity
- Recruitment of students of color
- Research results gained
- What's Next?

REFERENCES

- University Dashboard
- North Carolina System Interactive Data Dashboards
- ECU By The Numbers



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	Fall 2022	%	Fall 2021	%	Fall 2020	%	Fall 2019	%	Fall 2018	%
Total Honors Students	856		844		763		662		568	
Female	637	74.4%	607	71.9%	556	72.9%	510	77.0%	420	73.9%
Male	219	25.6%	237	28.1%	207	27.1%	152	23.0%	148	26.1%
URP	115	13.4%	105	12.4%	104	13.6%	75	11.3%	54	9.5%
Total Applications Started	2242		2708		2869		1388		1366	
*URP-American Indian, African American, Hispanic, Two or More Races										

Socioeconomic vs Diversity

Originally, we planned for a Diversity Day, but in light of the recent overturning of affirmative action and the end of race-conscious admissions, we have pivoted our plans. The change in the project's name from "diversity" to "socioeconomic" allows us to shift in focus from primarily addressing diversity based on demographic categories to tackling broader economic disparities. This change implies a move away from solely considering race and ethnicity, and instead concentrating on economic inequalities that affect individuals and communities.

Socioeconomic Day

Similar to the structure of ECU's Pirates Aboard Day. Specifically, current minority and disadvantaged students in the honors college will share their academic opportunities that have experienced as a result of being a part of the program.

Additionally, it would consist of the implementation of a mentee-mentor program that would pair high school students interested in ECU's Honors College with current students.

Agenda

9am

Welcoming – Speakers from HC staff and leading HC students

10 am

Affording College

11am

Can I fit in? Student Panelist

12pm

Lunch

1pm

Meetings with minority students organizations

2pm

Meet a Mentor!

3pm

Tour of campus

4pm

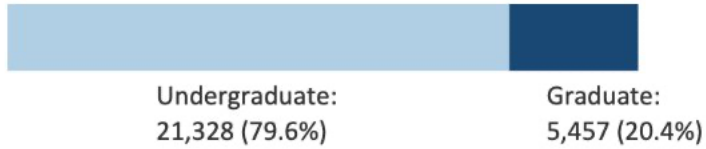
Closing

ECU Total enrollment



Enrollment, Fall 2023

Total Enrollment: 26,785



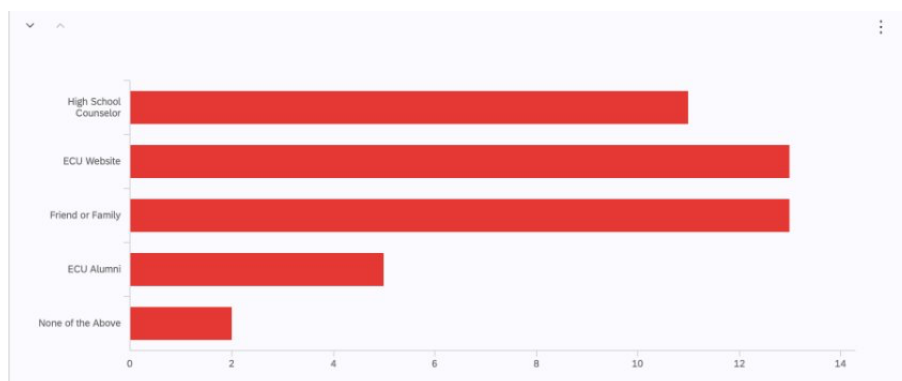
Race and Ethnicity	Undergraduate	Graduate
American Indian or Alaska Native	<1%	<1%
Asian	2.5%	3.9%
Black or African American	16.8%	16.1%
Hispanic or Latino	9.7%	5.4%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<1%	<1%
Two or More Races	3.9%	2.9%
White	62.2%	64.9%
Unknown or Non-Resident Alien	4.4%	6.1%

Our survey

On October 14th we attended the 2023 open house and were able to survey around 40 aspiring students.

Examples are below:

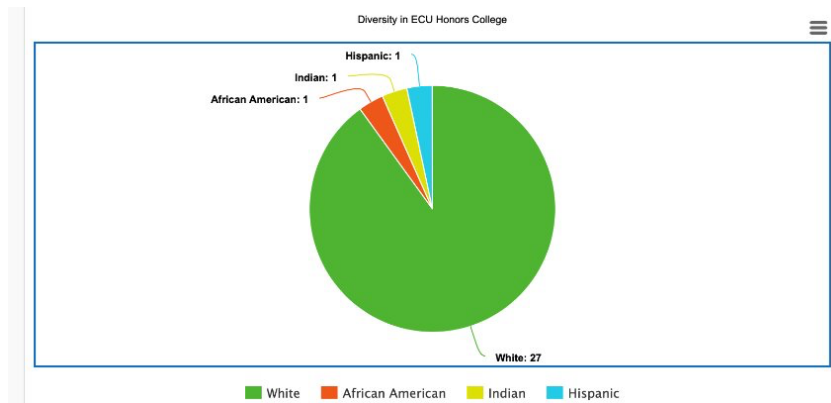
Q1 - How did you hear about ecu honors college?



Q2 - Do you plan on applying to both ECU and the Honors College?

100 percent stated yes

Q3 - What is your race/ethnicity?



What could contribute to lack of diversity?

Issues we believe contribute to lack of diversity



Lack of knowledge about the ECU's Honors College Program.



Structural Inequality such as financial disadvantages.



Lack of knowledge about the opportunities offered. Examples being leadership growth, internships, and study abroad (financial assistance).

References

UNC System Fact Sheets

<https://www.northcarolina.edu/unc-system-fact-sheets/>