

September 20, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Black Minds Matter Course to Reach More Than 10,000 Educators Across the Nation

In October of this year, San Diego State University Professor Dr. Luke Wood will begin a nationally broadcast course called Black Minds Matters – A Focus on Black Boys and Men in Education. This course is expected to reach thousands of educators in schools, colleges, and universities nationwide. The course connects themes from the Black Lives movement to issues facing Black boys and men in education, using the movements guiding tenets as a framework for improving student success.

The course will train educators to prepare and mobilize their classrooms in ways that will lead to a wide array of better academic outcomes for Black males. “We want educators to see their classrooms as sites for civil resistance against ineffective policies, programs, and practices” said Wood. By civil resistance, Wood is referring to teaching strategies that empower students and communicate care rather than undervaluing and criminalizing them. “Our goal is to create a paradigm shift in the way educators view their role in education and to infuse this philosophy, eventually, into every school and college throughout the nation.”

The course has attracted over 10,000 educators who will be participating in the course as individuals and at over [130 broadcast sites](#) nationwide. “These sites are in elementary schools, community centers, colleges, and universities,” said Dr. Frank Harris III, an SDSU professor who will be serving as a guest speaker in the course along with Patrisse Cullors – Co-Founder of Black Lives Matter and Ilyasah Shabazz – an educational advocate and daughter of Malcolm X. The course will also be taught to 30 graduate students at SDSU, many of whom were part of the initial group of students who asked for the course to be taught.

The paradigm shift proposed in the course is a response to disparate outcomes faced by Black boys and men in education. As noted by Wood, Black boys are significantly more likely to be placed into special education or exposed to disciplinary practices such as suspensions or expulsions that remove them from learning environments. He noted that “the Black Minds Matter course can help to address these concerns by providing educators with strategies and practices that can improve their success with this critical student population.”

The course was also inspired by a report co-authored by Smith, [Black Minds Matter](#), that was released in 2015 by the Education Trust-West. This organization is among several national organizations that are partnering in the development and delivery of this groundbreaking course. The partner organizations include the Education Trust-West, the Campaign for Black Male Achievement (CBMA), Moms of Black Boys (MOBB) United, the Center for Organizational Responsibility and Advancement (CORA), and Our Scholarship Matters.