Defining An Authentic Male Population

The I am Richmond College Campaign

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Where did this come from?

Yearly Goals

[Images]
Developing the Questions

Goals
• Highlight both visible and invisible diversity
• Share student backgrounds and experiences
• Emphasize the individuals

Questions
• Broad to allow freedom for student to answer
• Meant to start a conversation
• Bottom line: “Tell us your story.”
I am Richmond College: Version 1
A Discovery

It did not take long however, to figure out that there was no mold and that Richmond College was an institution aimed at helping us to progress down our own unique paths, rather than an agent of conformity.

--Isaiah Bailey, ’13

No term can completely describe anyone, but I refer more to the fact that "man" always has the connotations of "tough" or "emotionless except when showing anger," which at least stereotypically is descriptive of what I find people think when they say "masculine." I personally have never seen a need for such words or actions.

--Red Finney, ’13
Where to go from here?

• How to become a part of the student’s experience?
• Investiture
Where are we now?

• Two years of intention cards
• Two videos with a third and fourth in production
• Revising the questions we ask…
  • What does the following phrase mean to you: “to be a man”?
  • How do you personally define “masculinity”?
Defining Masculinity

From my father, I have learned that being a man means to live with confidence and to act with full understanding of and accountability for the result of your actions. While society may bend the definition of a “man” to justify the image being sold, I believe that the key to being a man is the ability to make responsible decisions, with the knowledge that your actions have a direct impact on others. What distinguishes manhood from all other stages of life is the understanding of the tie between a personal action and a greater external impact. A man is an individual who can maintain a strong personal value system and effect change in the world just as much as he opens himself to different perspectives and allow the world to be his teacher.

--Kokou Alasse, ‘17
Defining Masculinity

As a gay man, this question is particularly consequential as it has been used in both affirming and destructive ways. For me, to be a man is to stand for something, to rise up to a challenge and not back down from what you believe. It is to show respect and resolve when being challenged and challenging those around me. For me, masculinity is a quiet resolve and strength. It manifests itself through what one stands up for, and how one carries himself. It’s having a true sense of self and purpose that is developed over time, and reflected in one’s actions.

--Rand Irons, ‘15
What do you intend to do?

• What role will you play in students finding their authentic selves?
• How will you initiate students discussing masculinity on your campus?
• How will you define masculinity?

I am ______________________________

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