



## Definitions for Black Excellence from Three Perspectives

### Black Student Leaders Definition for Black Excellence:

Black Excellence is community. A thriving community that uplifts and empowers its members, as they relentlessly pursue self-identity, with the understanding that one belongs and has a unique contribution to make on campus, in their careers, or in the world. At its core Black Excellence is an unwavering belief in self-worth, insistence on equitable treatment, and rejection of any narrative that diminishes our value. Black Excellence is community. Black Excellence is the embodiment of resilience through trauma, confrontation of adversity, and perseverance through struggles while consistently pushing the boundaries of progress to achieve our goals (Black Leadership Council, 2023).

### Individual Definition for Black Excellence:

Transcending excellence to achieve the brilliance of Black Greatness. - In my opinion, I understand Black excellence to mean exceeding preassigned societal expectations for Black students, so that our students can enter careers of their choice, enabling them to realize their own "life success" (John, 2019). The implication of this would mean that our students will be able to overcome institutional barriers (with confidence) through their mere excellence, as their skills and academic talent will be too excellent to ignore.

### Institution Definition for Black Excellence:

Such a grounded and active commitment to Black Excellence requires three overarching assets:

- (1) Administrative policies generated from the Chancellor's Office and each campus that clearly places this as a priority commitment, interest, and calls on every campus to collaborate in achieving the goals set;
- (2) Resources, i.e., funds, materials, and experts, with Black Studies faculty and staff at the core of this inclusive body of experts; and
- (3) Programmatic initiatives that focus on the success of Black students but includes programs that relate them and Black faculty and staff to other students, faculty, and staff on campus (Karenga, 2023).

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### References

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- John, A. (2019). *Caribbean women and the Black British identity: Academic strategies for navigating an 'unfinished' ethnicity*. Arizona State University.
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