

## **The Effect of Race on Mentees' Experience of Mentoring**

Examining how to maximize the benefits of mentoring is important in order to improve college students' success. I am investigating the effects of peer mentoring on at-risk students' experience in college. In the present study, I asked 102 ethnically diverse students, who are taking a lower level Psychology course together, to complete an on-line survey to evaluate students' Civic Engagement, Openness to New Friends, Leadership Orientation, Academic Orientation, Grit, Openness to Diversity, sense of Campus Climate, and Connection to College. In this sample, students were matched using ethnicity, GPA, major, and completed credits. As a part of a class requirement, half of each pair is currently taking part in weekly mentoring sessions for six weeks and after these six weeks, the other half of each pair will take part in the same weekly mentoring sessions. Half of the students undergoing mentoring have mentors who share their race and the other half have mentors who do not share their race. The students engage in planned activities during each mentoring session. Three of these sessions will relate to student success interventions and the other three will relate to class content. After the six weeks, the students will be resurveyed to examine whether their views on their college experience has changed. Student success will be evaluated through grades on assignments, attendance, participation frequency, number of visits to office hours, their responses to E-Portfolio prompts given in class, and their responses to the surveys given. I hypothesize that having a formal mentor who is of the same race will positively affect a mentee's Civic Engagement, Openness to New Friends, Leadership Orientation, Academic Orientation, Grit, Openness to Diversity, sense of Campus Climate, and Connection to College more than having a formal mentor who is of a different race.

*Keywords: Mentoring, Ethnicity, Race, At-Risk Students, Student Success, Campus Climate, Grit*