



**School Culture
Matters
Center for Christian
Urban Educators**

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WE BELIEVE.

www.urbanprep.org

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Urban Prep Overview
- The 4Rs
- Results
- Q and A



THE LANDSCAPE: YOUNG BLACK MEN IN CRISIS



- Leading cause of death for young Black men is homicide (suicide is 3rd leading cause).
- 1/3 of Black men born this decade will spend some time in prison.
- 1 in 3 Black children live in poverty compared to 1 in 10 White children.
- The national high school drop-out rate for Black males is 41%; in Illinois it's 43%.
- 6% of Black boys in Chicago Public Schools will graduate from a 4-year college.



MISSION

- Urban Prep Academics was founded in 2002 and currently operates three campuses:
 - Englewood
 - West
 - Bronzeville
- The mission is to provide a comprehensive, high quality college preparatory education that results in graduates succeeding in college.





STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

- **Racial Composition**
 - Nearly 100% African-American
 - 100% Male
- **Educational Characteristics**
 - On average, 90% of our students enter Urban Prep reading below grade level
 - Over 20% of our students are diverse learners
- **Households**
 - Over 90% of students qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch
 - Many live in a single-parent female led household





School Culture Matters



PLEASE DO NOW

**WITH A PARTNER OR AT YOUR TABLE
DISCUSS THESE TWO QUESTIONS:**

WHY DOES CULTURE MATTER?

**WHAT CHALLENGES ARE YOU
CURRENTLY FACING IN ESTABLISHING
AND MAINTAINING A POSITIVE SCHOOL
CULTURE?**



THE 4Rs OF SCHOOL CULTURE

Urban Prep Culture

RESPECT

RELATIONSHIPS

RESPONSIBILITY

RITUAL

Urban Prep's culture is built on 4Rs.



URBAN PREP 4Rs: RESPECT

RESPECT

- Students are greeted with a firm handshake and/or a hug.
- Students are addressed by their surnames.
- Adults make eye contact when addressing students and they are expected to do the same.
- Disrespectful behavior toward students is prohibited.



URBAN PREP 4Rs: RELATIONSHIPS

RELATIONSHIPS

- Adults at Urban Prep are *intentional* about establishing positive relationships with students
- Students and families have access to teachers' cell phone numbers and email addresses.
- Students are placed in cohorts called Prides (families within families) led by Pride Leaders



URBAN PREP 4Rs: RESPONSIBILITY

RESPONSIBILITY

- Student uniform
- Code of conduct
- Explicit codification and communication of student expectations
- The Urban Prep Creed
- Holding students accountable to living the 8 Core Values

Resilience

Integrity

Selflessness

Exceptionality

Solidarity

Faith

Accountability

Relentlessness



URBAN PREP 4Rs: RESPONSIBILITY

RESPONSIBILITY

The Urban Prep Creed

We Believe.

We are the young men of Urban Prep.

We are college bound.

We are exceptional, not because we say it,
but because we work hard at it.

We will not falter in the face of any obstacle placed
before us.

We are dedicated, committed and focused.

We never succumb to mediocrity, uncertainty, or fear.

We never fail because we never give up.

We make no excuses.

We choose to live honestly, nonviolently, and honorably.

We respect ourselves and in doing so respect all people.

We have a future for which we are accountable.

We have a responsibility to our families, community and
world.

We are our brothers' keeper.

We believe in ourselves.

We believe in each other.

We believe in Urban Prep.

WE BELIEVE.



URBAN PREP 4Rs: RITUAL

RITUAL

- Rituals have been created that are uniquely Urban Prep.
- Cultivates ownership, belonging and connectedness.
- UP Rituals include:
 - Community
 - Convocation
 - Student of the Week
 - On to the Next One
 - Signing Day
 - Commencement

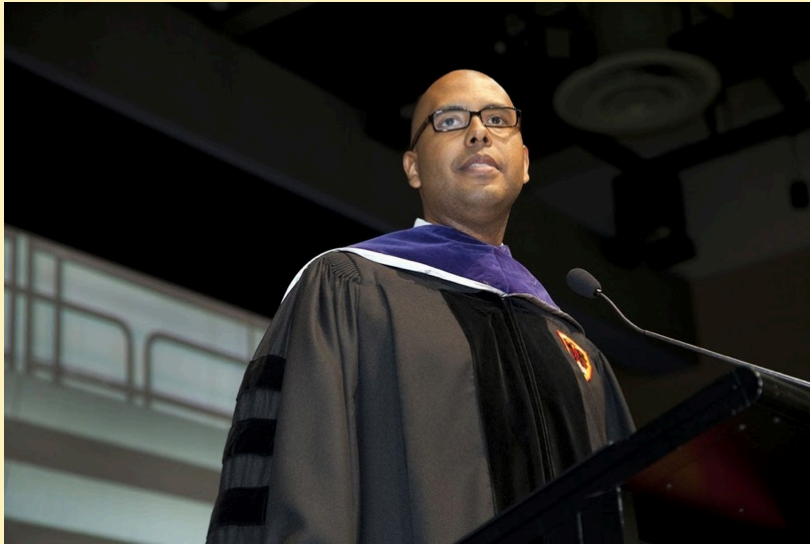


RITUAL: COMMUNITY





RITUAL: CONVOCATION



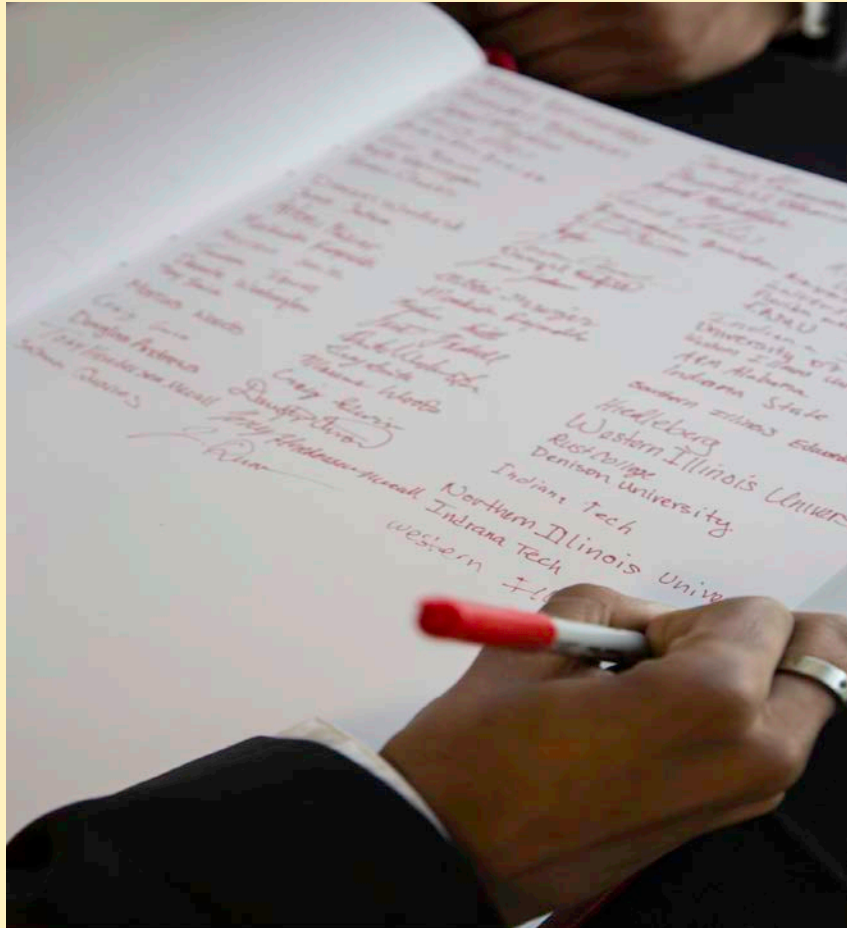


RITUAL: ON TO THE NEXT ONE





RITUAL: SIGNING DAY





RITUAL: COMMENCEMENT





PROOF POINTS

- For the last seven years 100% of Urban Prep's graduates have been accepted to four-year colleges and universities.
- College enrollment rate of 94% exceeds district, state, and national averages.
- In the fall of 2015 1 out of 9 African American males enrolling in college as a Freshman from Chicago was an Urban Prep alumnus.
- 72% of Urban Prep graduates persist in college which is 11 percentage points higher than the overall district average and 25 percentage points higher than the African American male district average.
- Graduation rate exceeds the African American male district average by more than 15 percentage points.
- Daily attendance rate of 92% is higher than district and national averages for African American males.
- Urban Prep has had the most Gates Millennium Scholarship recipients in the state of Illinois for the last two years.



EDUTOPIA

Community:

<http://www.edutopia.org/practice/daily-assemblies-deepening-relationships-through-ritual-and-recognition>

Pride Program:

<http://www.edutopia.org/practice/pride-advisory-classes-social-and-emotional-support-every-student>

College Process:

<http://www.edutopia.org/practice/college-prep-college-acceptance-every-student>



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QUESTIONS??

