Beyond Graduation Rates: Conceptualizing Liberatory Outcomes

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Motivation

• College students of color continue to have inequitable educational, economic, and post-college ("normative") outcomes.
• There is a need to assess racial equity and social justice outcomes for students of color, which can be mediators to "normative" outcomes and serve as important standalone justice outcomes.

Project Description

• Collaborate with researchers, educators, and policy intermediaries to reimagine what social justice and racial equity looks like in higher education.
• Use in-depth interviews, artifact analysis, and participatory research to advance a conceptualization of liberatory outcomes.

Context

• Postsecondary institutions use "normative" outcomes to determine success in serving students, yet do not consider racial equity and social justice as important outcomes.
• Liberatory outcomes take into consideration outcomes such as critical consciousness, political engagement, and racial identity development as necessary outcomes for racially minoritized students.
• Higher education needs to value knowledge that has historically been excluded.

The goal is to collaborate with stakeholders to conceptualize liberatory educational outcomes such as critical consciousness, racial identity development, and social agency for postsecondary research, practice, and policy.

Project Deliverables

• New knowledge of how liberatory outcomes can be used as indicators of serving racially minoritized students disseminated through academic journals and conferences.
• Tools will be developed for assessing and enacting liberatory outcomes within the college context.
• Policy briefs developed to inform lobbying and change at capitol hill
• The development and submission of proposals to the Spencer Foundation and National Science Foundations.

Potential Impact

• The development of liberatory outcomes will advance how higher education serves racially minoritized students.
• Higher education institutions will have the necessary tools to ensure racial and social justice with tangible indicators and measures.

References and/or Acknowledgements
