

Multicultural Issues

Born in a time when racial tensions were high, Hrabowski experienced many injustices growing up because of his race. He witnessed members of his race being burned, bombed, and beaten. With these numerous trying obstacles many people would give up and accept the ideology that whites were superior to Blacks.

Instead of allowing thoughts that Blacks were inferior, Hrabowski, with encouragement from his parents, has triumphed and become a very successful man. One may infer that his mother, a teacher, may have influenced the educator in him. Having some support system has been a theme of the mathematicians studied in the Women and Minorities in Mathematics Course.

Another theme discovered in the course has been the attendance of minorities to predominantly minority schools. Hrabowski again has followed the trend by attending the Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia. Also, Hrabowski is employed by a predominantly Black university; another trend found during the Women and Minorities in Mathematics course.

A third theme that Hrabowski follows is that of being a math educator. Other African-American mathematicians have continued their studies and research as math educators. He helped to develop the Meyerhoff Program at the University of Maryland at Baltimore County. The Meyerhoff Program encourages minority students to excel in the mathematical, engineering, and science fields.

However, Hrabowski did not follow the majority in one trend, stereotype vulnerability. It is the idea that test results may be influenced by certain suggestive words. Hrabowski graduated from college with highest honors in mathematics at the young age of 19.

The other deviation from the general tendency is that of being underemployed. In the Women and Minorities in Mathematics course, many women and minority mathematicians who “should” have been at research universities or institutes were employed at schools that emphasized teaching more. Hrabowski has achieved national recognition for his work as the President of the University of Maryland at Baltimore County.

One can see that Freeman Hrabowski follows many of the trends of other African Americans working in mathematics. One can also see that he does not conform to all of the generalities found.