

*The Strength of the Wolf is the Pack: AAMI/Project Wolves Collaboration as a Model for Student-centered Campus Inclusion Initiatives*

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The recent collaboration at UWG between Project Wolves (PW) and the African American Male Initiative (AAMI) is a success story with lessons for all of campus, and the larger community of Higher Education. PW is UWG's Inclusive Postsecondary Education Program, providing support services and programming to students with developmental and intellectual disabilities throughout their college experience to help ensure their success. UWG's AAMI is a learning community providing support services and programming to Black male students, primarily in their first year as an academic first-year program (FYP), to meet USG goals for increasing retention, progression, and graduation rates of African American men. In 2019-20, AAMI students have served as mentors for PW students. A panel of AAMI and PW students will discuss how this collaboration has benefited both programs, both in terms of creating bonds of friendships formed in the interpersonal interactions and in terms of contributing to a more inclusive campus climate. Employing qualitative methods of personal narratives and quantitative analysis of institutional RPG data, this research project outlines ways in which the AAMI/PW collaboration can serve as a model for student-centered campus inclusion initiatives – making UWG a better place to work, learn, and succeed.