

Imani Academic Mentorship Program

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Access in Practice: Putting great ideas to work



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The Imani Academic Mentorship Program, which launched in September 2005, has been active in East Scarborough for 12 years

1110

We have supported 1110 mentees at various community learning sites through participation in the Imani Academic Mentorship Program

450

450 UTSC students have volunteered their time as academic mentors in the community

- Student mentees have seen an increase in their grades, school engagement, self confidence, and post-secondary education enrolment
- Youth mentees have become mentors at UTSC
- In the last 4 years, all graduating mentees were accepted into PSE

The program addresses three major influences impacting the academic achievement of Black students (Fashola, 2005):

- **Societal & Cultural** - through mentorship
- **School Based** - tutoring support in literacy & math
- **Extra Curricular & Community Support** - leadership projects, campus visits and trips



Participants and their families are connected to paths to post secondary education, thereby increasing life & career prospects

Weekly commitment from October to April



Weekly School Visits

- Mentoring and Tutoring
- Leadership Development
- Speak up in the Box

UTSC Visits

- Monthly Development
- Day in the Life events

Recognition

- Certificates
- Awards
- Gifts (laptops, bursaries)

The program offers the following to student mentees, parents and guardians:

Student Mentees

- Culturally responsive programming
- Role modelling
- Opportunities to build self-confidence and awareness
- Leadership development
- Academic tutoring and learning strategies
- Encouraging and facilitating paths to post-secondary education
- Explore bursaries and other community placement opportunities

Parents & Guardians

- Exposure to post secondary options
- Engaging schools, communities, parents and guardians

Credit summaries and pre and post surveys have demonstrated that there have been improvements in the academic and social lives of mentees

The program provides UTSC students with community engaged learning opportunities

- Augmenting academic knowledge with labour market skill development
- Experiential opportunities and learning outcomes that enhance the student experience
- Preparing students to be civically responsible and focused on building their community
- Providing youth employment opportunities and volunteer opportunities that build employability skills



- Informed by research, data and lived experiences
- Targeted, responsive, and consistent programming
- Intentional intervention and academic planning
- Development opportunities and mutual mentorship
- Effective training and ongoing support of mentors
- Programming for parents, guardians, and families
- Strong partnerships with community organizations, school administrators, and superintendents



By cultivating strong relationships with organizations that support children and youth, universities are helping to set up young people for healthy, prosperous and fulfilling lives.

(COU, 2015, p.8)

