

**COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS INITIATIVE  
MONTHLY REPORT (JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup>)**

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**Submitted by:**

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**&**

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Submitted on:

January 31, 2017

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In fulfillment of the commitments made to the  
City of Philadelphia's  
My Brother's Keeper Initiative-Philadelphia (MBK Philly)



## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Forged by a partnership between the Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement (OBME) and the Community College of Philadelphia's Center for Male Engagement, the Community Conversations Initiative is a platform to engage Philadelphians and leaders who work for / with our communities. The initiative is a monthly forum where community members and leaders discuss challenges, opportunities, and solutions that address dismantling inequities that impact the lives of men and boys of color in the city.

In general, the Community Conversations Initiative focuses on discussions that include but are not limited to:

- Education
- Justice
- Health/Wellness
- Economic Development

The Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement is dedicated to closing the opportunity divide for men & boys of color.

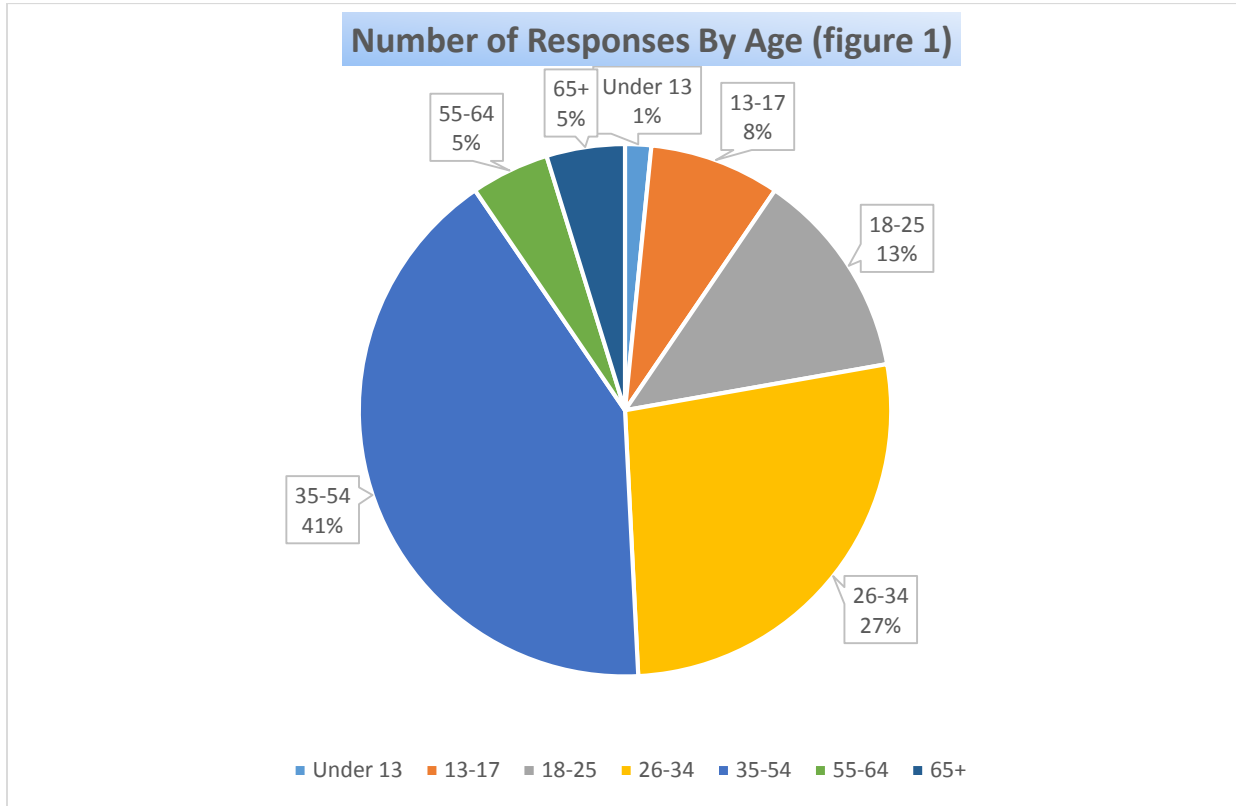
The Community College of Philadelphia values community engagement and service as an important part of its mission. The institution addresses broad economic, cultural and political concerns in the city and beyond through a variety of community service initiatives.

HIGHLIGHTED RESOURCES (resource tables present at Conversation):

- PCPR – Philadelphia College Prep Roundtable  
<http://collegepreproundtable.org/>
- Graduate Philadelphia  
<https://www.graduatephiladelphia.org/>

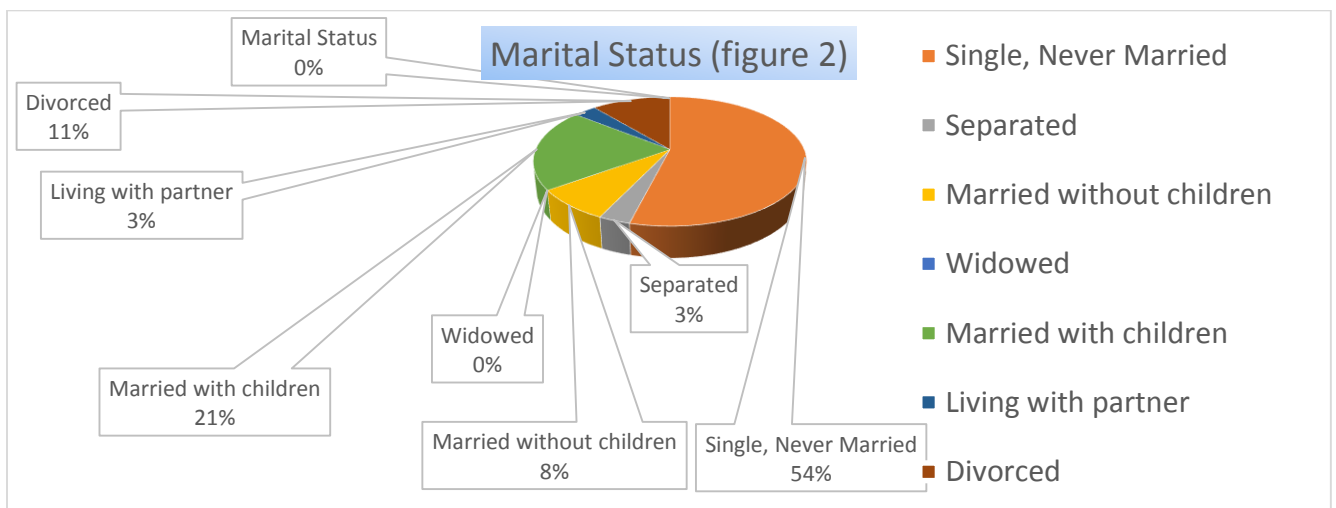
**SURVEY RESULTS (FROM PARTICIPANTS):**

**AGE RANGE: (SEE CHART)**



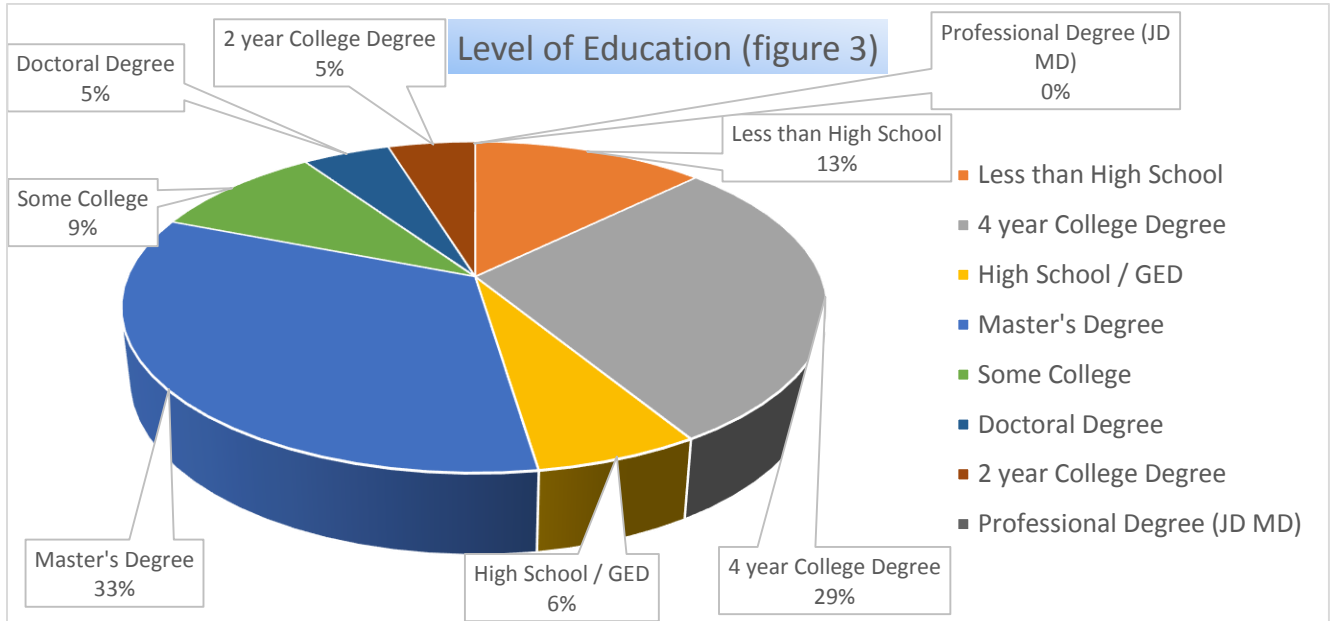
- *(Age Range chart - figure 1) The majority of people in attendance in January were 35-54 yrs. old.*

**CURRENT MARITAL STATUS: (SEE CHART)**



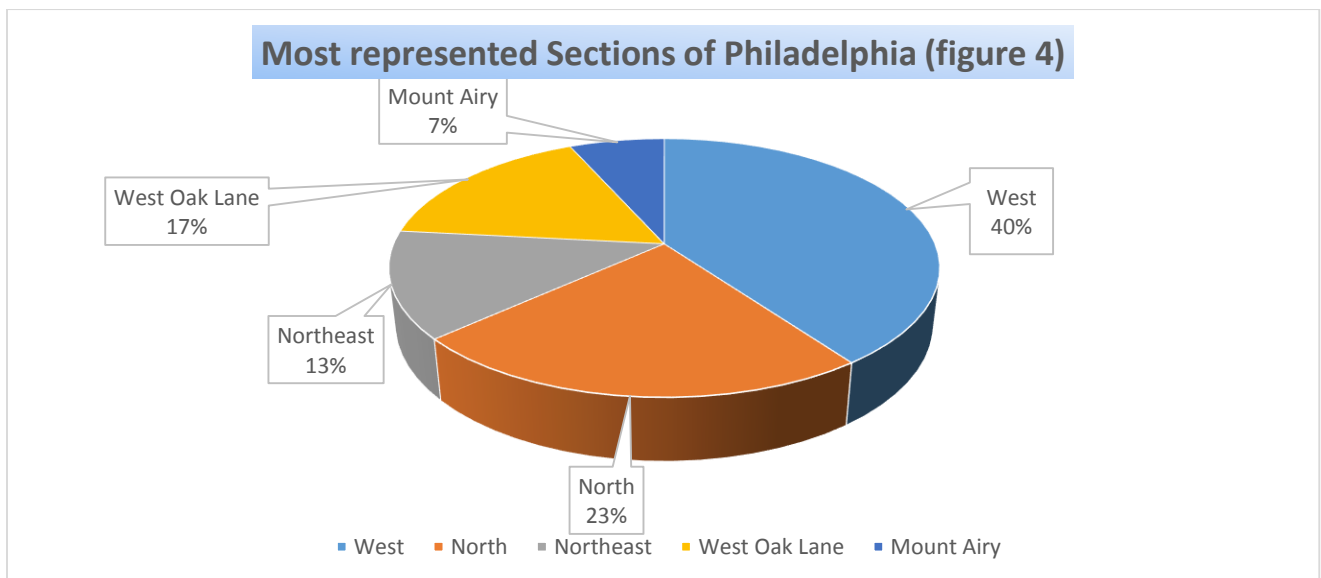
- (Marital Status Chart – figure 2) The majority of people in attendance were Single (never married).

**HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION: (SEE CHART)**



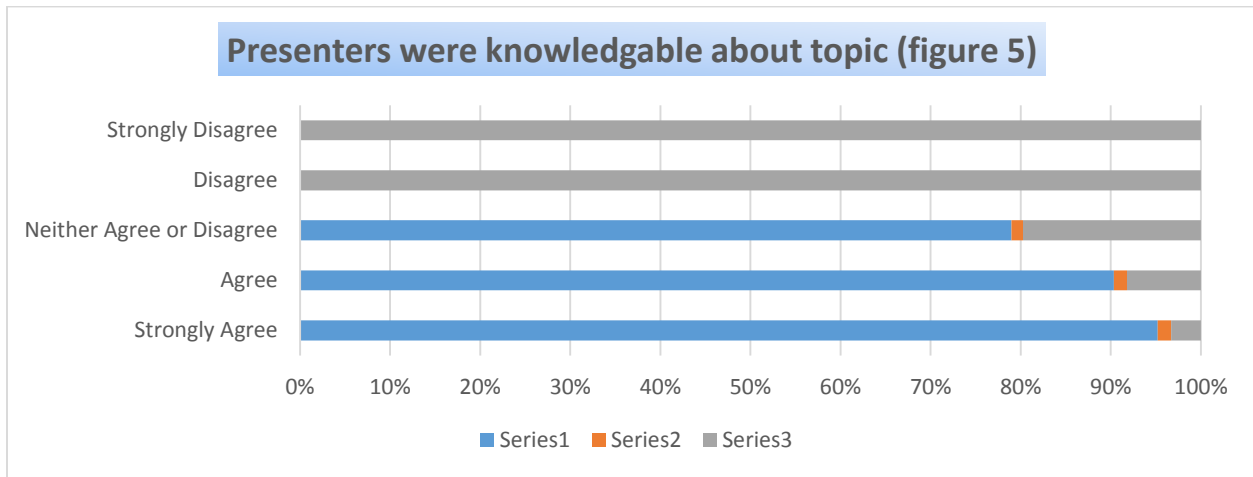
- (Education Chart – figure 3) The majority of people in attendance earned a Master's degree

**LOCATION IN PHILA. -BASED ON ZIP-: (SEE CHART)**

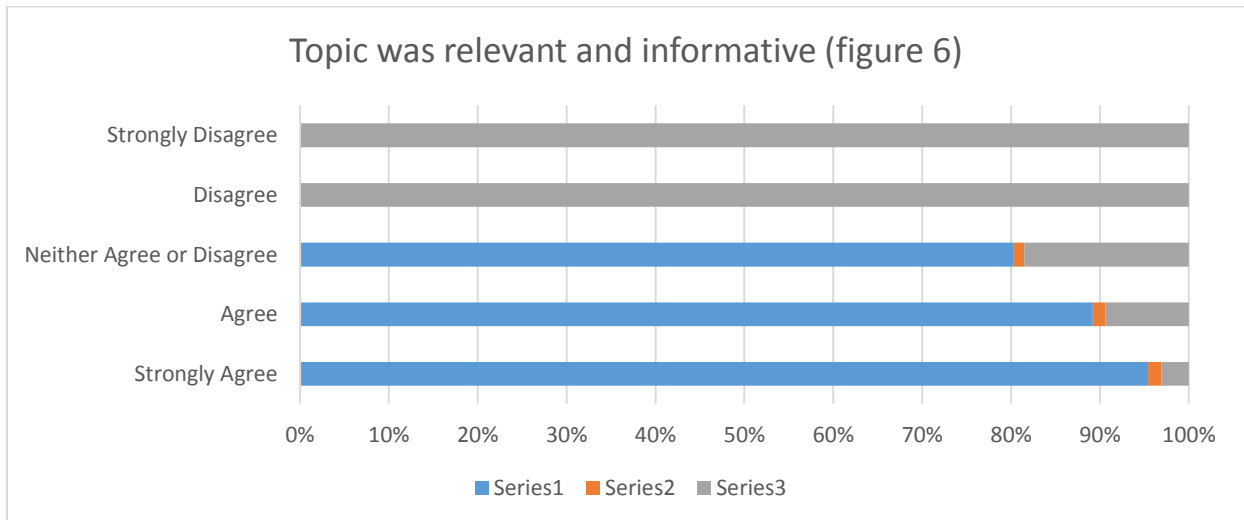


- (Education Chart – figure 4) The majority of people in attendance live in West Philadelphia. (Note: We only reflected a section of Philadelphia where more than 1 person was in attendance.)

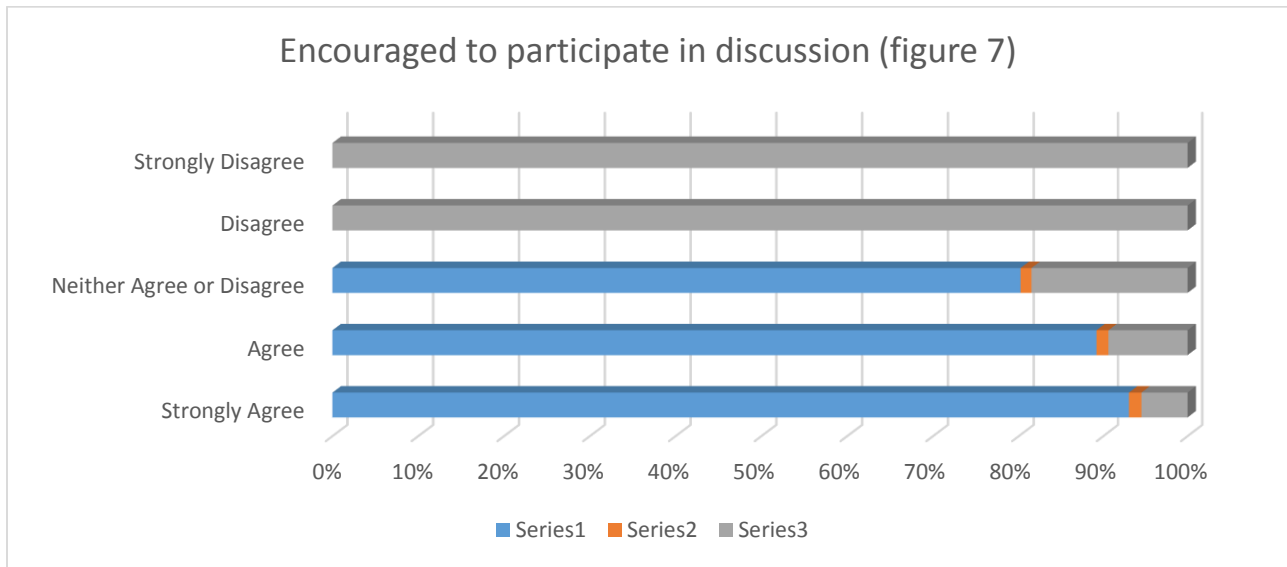
**RESULTS FROM COMMUNITY SURVEY**



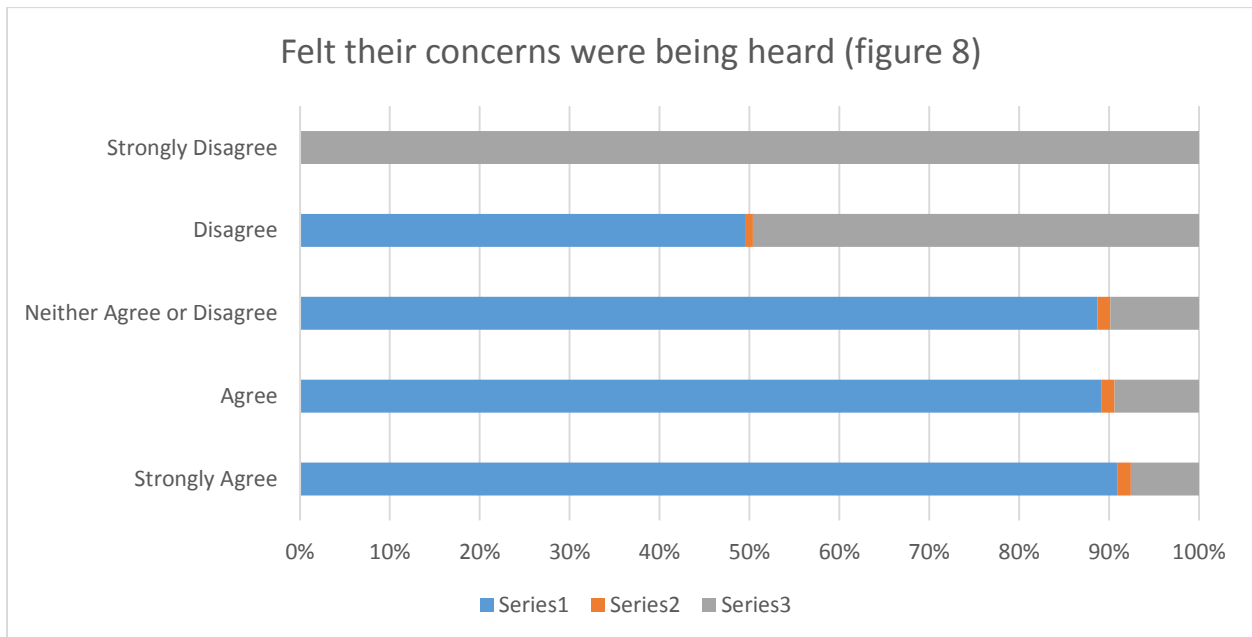
- *(Presenters Knowledge chart – figure 5) The majority of people in attendance agreed and strongly agreed that the presenters were knowledgeable about the topic (Education)*



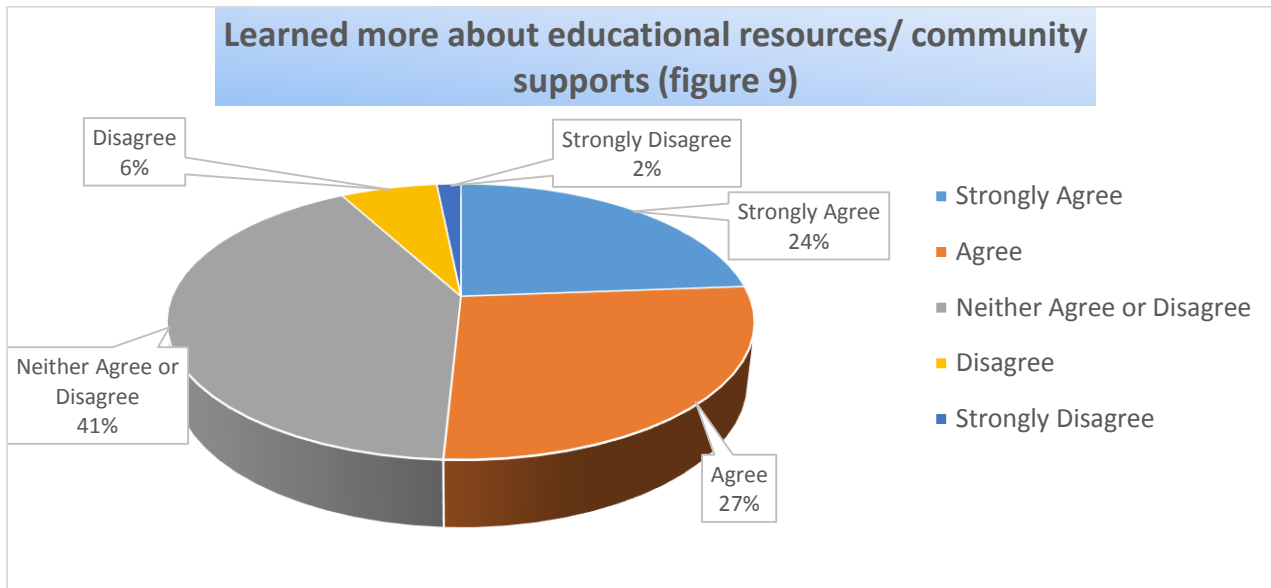
- *(Topic relevance chart – figure 6) Most people agreed or strongly agreed that the topic was relevant and informative.*



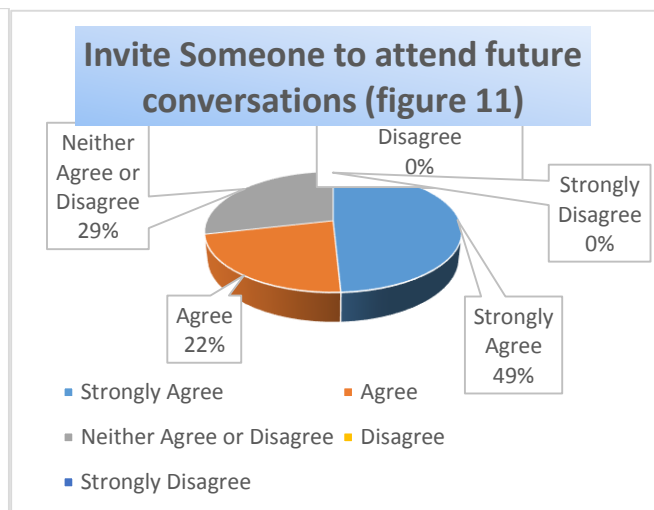
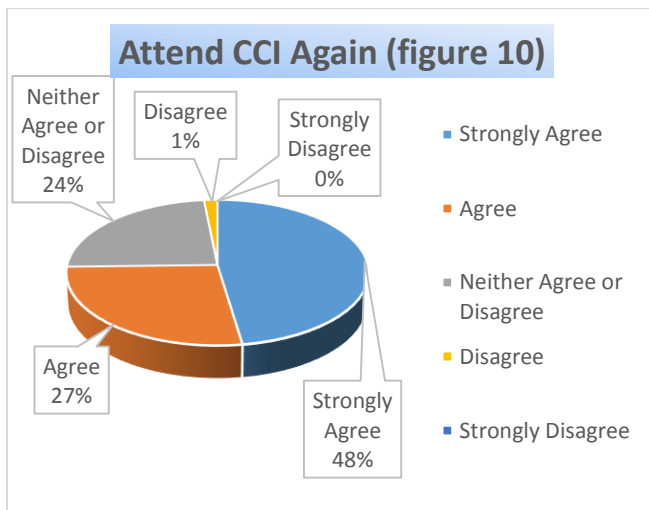
- (Encouraged to participate chart – figure 7) Most people agreed or strongly agreed that they were encouraged to participate in the discussion.*



- (Concerns were being heard chart – figure 8) Most people agreed or strongly agreed that they “felt their concerns were being heard,” but some community members disagreed that they were being heard.*



- (Educational Resources chart) Most people agreed or strongly agreed that they learned more about educational resources, but some participants disagreed that they learned more about educational resources.



- (Attendance & Recommendations to Community Conversations Charts – figures 10 & 11) Most people agreed or strongly agreed that they would attend again and recommend folks to future community conversations.

Based on the Needs, Resources, and Solutions brought forth by the attending Community members, we will continue to gather suggestions and recommendations to report out information to stakeholders in efforts to advance the academic, economic, health & wellbeing, and social/ criminal justice awareness towards a transformed narrative for men and boys of color in the city of Philadelphia. Please carefully read the suggestions as each are given by a fellow Philadelphian who support men and boys of color in the city and realize that we are better, together.

**The Following is a list of results from the community regarding their Needs, Resources, and Solutions around the theme of the discussion (Education)**

**Needs**

Mentorship  
More black men teaching our children  
Education that draws on life experiences  
  
Tech Ed  
Variety of trade education  
Apprenticeship trade training  
Job exploration starting in the 7th grade  
Career skills / professional development  
College & career prep  
Professional/ soft skill development  
Job and career readiness  
Quality high school  
A college institute  
  
Extracurricular activities  
Less sports, more arts programming  
  
Financial support  
Funding for books & tech equipment  
Equitable and adequate funding  
more funding for schools  
Scholarships

**Resources**

Business sponsorships  
Matching vocational personnel with students  
Black businesses  
Neighborhood development associations  
  
Neighborhood action center  
Community center  
life enrichment centers  
Hank Gathers Rec Center  
MLK Rec Center  
**Wellness Center @ 22nd & Cecil B. Moore**  
Library  
keystone hot spot  
  
Few & far between  
lack of resources  
  
GED testing resources  
  
MyPlace  
Graduate Philadelphia  
CTE high schools  
k-12 ED; schools  
Community school  
Universities (CCP; Penn; Drexel; U. Sciences; Temple)

**Solutions**

Innovation to experience community services  
Greater promotion of existing services  
Media coverage to spread the word  
  
Paths to self discovery  
Exploration of various environments  
Rites of passage  
Listening to young people  
  
Panels with local leaders  
Speak to adults who use system  
Mentorship  
Visible local leaderships  
Building up leaders  
  
Community classes on economics and ownership  
Engaging more employers in the process  
Small business incubators and development mentorship from the african-american professional class  
  
Forums like this for high schoolers  
College pipelines implement GED, reading, college programs within communities  
More k-16 conversations



Relatable teacher/ staff content  
 Intriguing lessons to keep students hooked  
 Culturally competent teachers  
 Culturally relevant curriculum  
 Cultural readiness for college  
 Great principles/ teachers/ counselors  
 Teachers who can relate to their students

Concrete/ life skills  
 Life skills: budgeting, financial independence

Financial skills

Teaching self-reliance

Self-value

social/ behavioral learning opportunities

self actualization

Communicate accessibility of programs  
 access to computers and the internet

Healing before teaching

health & wellness

Sexual awareness/ reproductive health  
 health and healthy living (mind, body, spirit, recovery)

Police-community functions

parents and community engagement  
 community presentation (physical and cultural)  
 Schools that are welcoming of community involvement

more communal involvement

GED literacy programs for adults & youth

supports for students who are parents

resources for adult learners

Diversity  
 HBCUs to be more focused on their existence  
 To understand corporate America and how it works  
 To avoid post-Obama rhetoric by understanding his presidency

more teacher supports (mental health)

**Love**

Social services  
 family & friends  
 Churches and other religious institutions  
 100 Black Men and other fraternal orgs

**Philly CAM**

**PHENND**

**The Notebook (thenotebook.org)**  
**Coaching Boys Into Men @ Lutheran Settlement House**

**Black Men or Philadelphia, Inc.**

**Mentoring works, inc**

**Dr. Armando Tolliver at Central High School (mentioned four times)**

**Sports Programs for young people**

**Local youth organization centers**

**Free Library**

**Community Centers**

**Pal**

**Empowering block captains**

**BAaBEE (Moor Ali El, 215 – 883- 9522)**

**The Village (Walter Holmes)**

**Nguzo Saba (24/7/365)**

**Partners with local workplace (.org)**

Counselors and college advisors to help youth choose  
 Correct college

More k-16 conversations

Universities better preparing teachers and principles

More educators of color

Americorps

Life skill education

Sexual health

Afterschool programming

targeted efforts with at-risk communities  
 NOT- what do you want to be when you grow up,  
 but what impact do you want to have?

More focus on healing trauma

Work for more funding

End school to prison pipeline

End fossil fuel use