

# Authentic DEI: Supporting the Presence of Black Staff and Students in University Writing Centers

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## Introduction

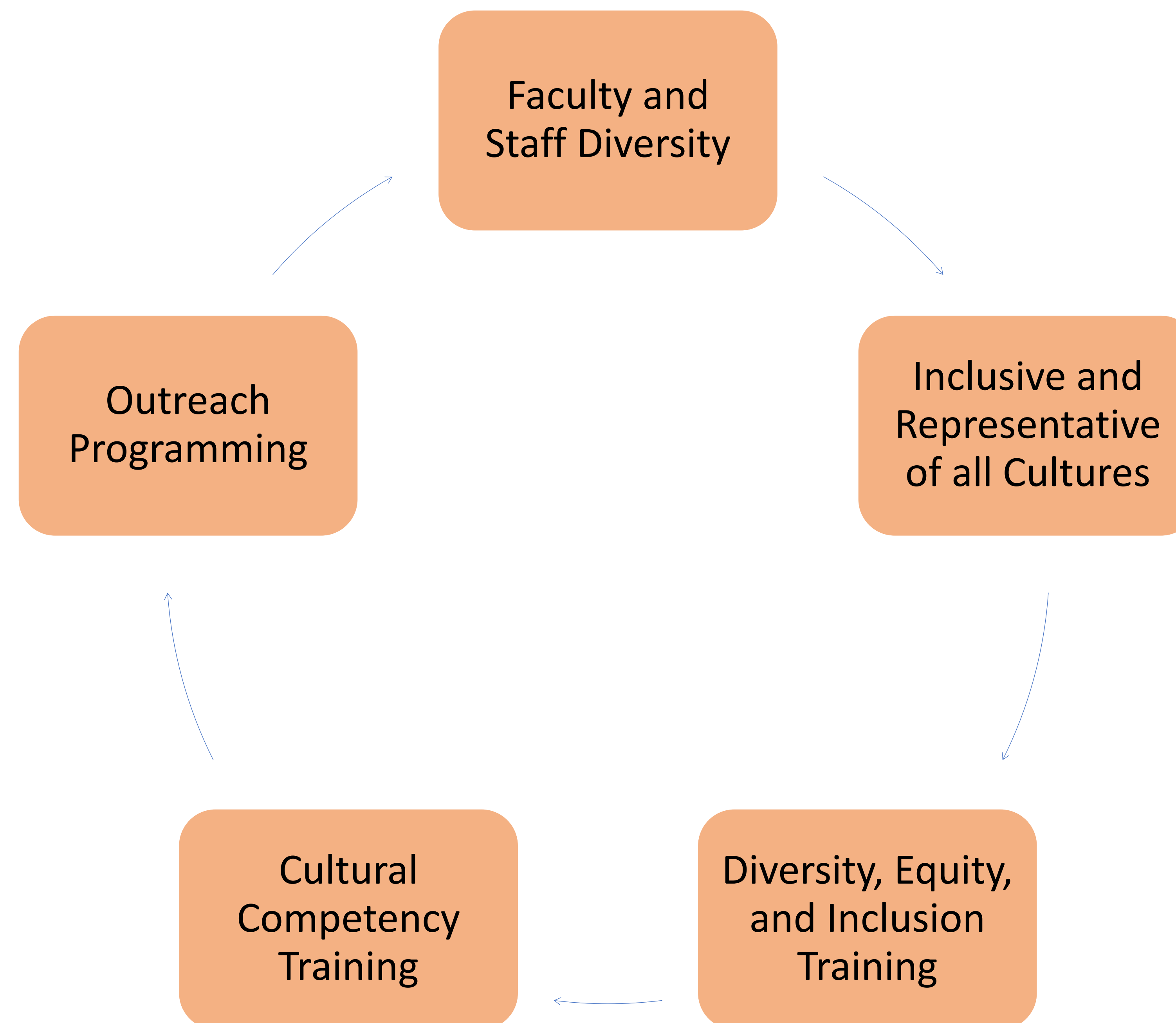
Currently, the cultures at predominantly white institutions (PWI) create an alienating experience for students and staff with marginalized identities. Here specifically, there is a deeper look into the Black experience within writing centers at universities that are PWIs. There is an understanding that creating community is a necessity of navigating both college and life. Therefore, this research explored the negative consequences of being stripped of that ability to foster community without systemic interferences and the possible solutions to create a more equitable environment for Black staff and students.

## Objective

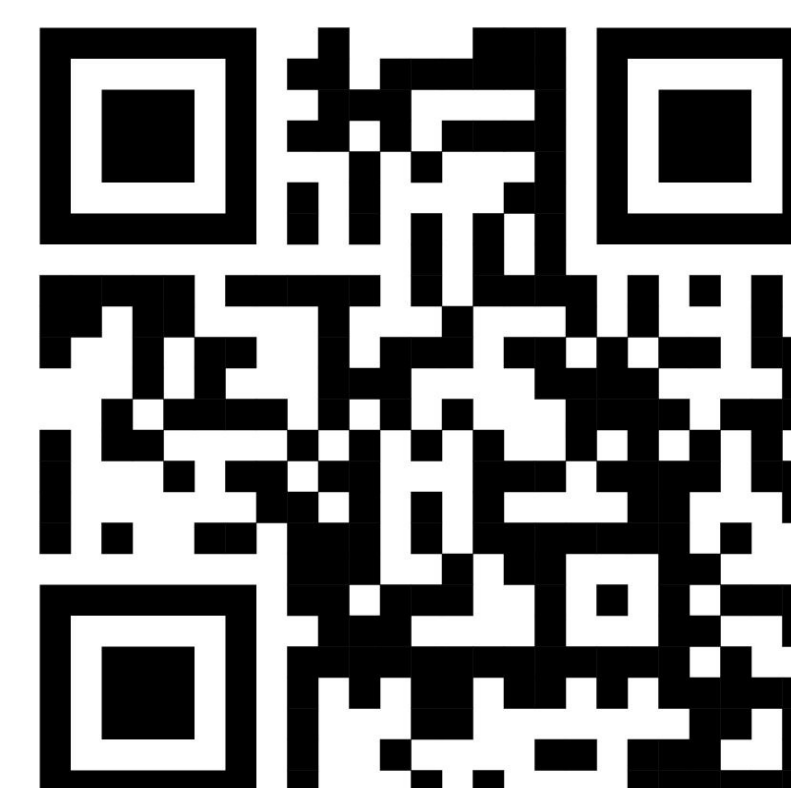
**Goal:** The goal of this research is to propose a solution based in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion principles that will work towards encouraging, increasing, and retaining the presence of Black people within the writing center. This proposed solution can also be foundational to creating a more inclusive space for other identities in need.



## Proposed Solution



Scan for Resources:



## Methodology and Results

Qualitative research conducted using current field research on universities, writing centers, and DEI.

**Key Findings:**

- ❖ Writing Centers are exclusionary in practice.
- ❖ Black staff and student's inability to create home.
- ❖ Proposed solutions must address the root causes: systemic racism in academia



## Implications

**The Writing Center and Beyond:**

- ❖ More engagement with writing centers
- ❖ Increased feelings of school connectedness
- ❖ Increased performance in the classroom
- ❖ Increased quality of life on campus
- ❖ Incorporation of Black Knowledge
- ❖ Making education more inclusive on widescale

