Central Appalachian High Schoolers’ Sense of Belonging in High Achieving Environments

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WHAT IS APPALACHIA?
POSITIONALITY
CENTRAL APPALACHIA

Kentucky

West Virginia

Virginia

Tennessee
CHALLENGES FACING CENTRAL APPALACHIA

Poverty Rate

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Central Appalachia</th>
<th>U.S. Average</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>14.1</td>
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- **Enrichment Opportunities**: Burney & Cross (2006)
- **Cultural Mismatch**: Chenoweth & Galliher (2004)
- **Low Belonging**: Johnson et al. (2007)
- **Higher Dropout**: Irvin et al. (2011)

(Pollard & Jacobson, 2020)
COLLEGE PREPARATORY PROGRAMS (CPPs)
CHALLENGES FOR APPALACHIANS IN CPPs

- Negative stereotypes
- Low sense of belonging; Imposter feelings
- Lower likelihood of persistence
Is Appalachian identity related to sense of belonging and imposter feelings in a CPP?

How are perceptions of negative stereotypes related to Appalachian students’ sense of belonging and imposter feelings?

What experiences are associated with changes in students’ sense of belonging and imposter feelings?
PARTICIPANTS

- Juniors and Seniors
- Ages 14-19

The College Prep Program
- Achievement-based admissions
- Located relatively far from Appalachia

Appalachians ~ 25%

Girls
Boys
N ~ 200
M E T H O D S

Phase 1
- Survey
- Quantitative Analysis

Phase 2
- Interviews
- Qualitative Analysis

Phase 3
- Interpretation of Findings
- Integrative Analysis

(Creswell & Clark, 2006)
Sense of Belonging

“I feel very different from most other students here.”
(Walton & Brady, 2017)

Imposter Feelings

“Sometimes I feel that my success has been the result of some kind of error.”
(Clance, 1985)

Stereotype Awareness

“I feel very different from most other students here.”
(Steele & Aronson, 1995)

Appalachian Identity

“I am an Appalachian.”

“Being from Appalachia is an important part of who I am.”
What events have increased your sense of belonging in this school?

What events have decreased your sense of belonging in this school?

What factors have led you to identify (or not identify) with being Appalachian?

What generalizations do others make about Appalachians?

To what extent do people apply these generalizations to you?

Have you changed your behavior as a result of others’ generalizations about Appalachia?
Is Appalachian identity related to sense of belonging and imposter feelings in a CPP?

How are perceptions of negative stereotypes related to Appalachian students’ sense of belonging and imposter feelings?

What experiences are associated with changes in students’ sense of belonging and imposter feelings?
# Expected Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Identity</th>
<th>Stereotype Awareness</th>
<th>Sense of Belonging</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stereotype Awareness</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sense of Belonging</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imposter Feelings</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
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TIMELINE

August
Obtain parental consent

Sept. 1
Begin surveys

Sept. 15
Begin interviews

Oct. 15
Begin analysis
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY
THANK YOU

For further questions contact: licia.henneberg@uky.edu

P20 MOTIVATION & LEARNING LAB
A Kentucky P20 Innovation Lab

College of Education
Educational, School and Counseling Psychology
REFERENCES


