

How an Upstart Urban University Rewrote the Rules of a Broken System



Won't Lose This Dream: How an Upstart Urban University Rewrote the Rules of a Broken System

by Andrew Gumbel

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In the heart of Crown Heights, Brooklyn, there is a college that is quietly revolutionizing urban higher education.

Medgar Evers College, part of the City University of New York (CUNY) system, was founded in 1969 with a mission to provide access to higher education for underserved students of color.

For decades, Medgar Evers College struggled to meet that mission. The college had low graduation rates, high dropout rates, and a reputation for being a "second-chance" school for students who couldn't get into more selective institutions.

But in recent years, Medgar Evers College has undergone a remarkable transformation. Under the leadership of President Rudy Crew, the college has implemented a series of innovative programs and initiatives that have led to dramatic improvements in student success.

Today, Medgar Evers College is a national model for urban higher education. The college has a graduation rate of 60%, which is higher than the national average for four-year colleges and universities. The college also has a high job placement rate, with 90% of graduates finding jobs within six months of graduation.

So, what is Medgar Evers College's secret?

According to Crew, it is all about creating a supportive and nurturing environment for students.

"We believe that every student has the potential to succeed, regardless of their background or circumstances," Crew said. "Our job is to provide them with the resources and support they need to reach their full potential."

One of the most important things that Medgar Evers College has done is to create a strong sense of community among its students.

"We want our students to feel like they belong here," Crew said. "We want them to feel like they are part of a family."

To that end, the college has created a number of programs and initiatives that help students to connect with each other and with the college community.

For example, the college has a strong mentoring program that pairs new students with upperclassmen who can provide them with guidance and support.

The college also has a number of student clubs and organizations that provide students with opportunities to get involved in extracurricular activities and to meet other students who share their interests.

In addition to creating a supportive community, Medgar Evers College has also implemented a number of innovative academic programs that have helped to improve student success.

For example, the college has a "learning community" program that groups students together in small cohorts and provides them with additional academic support.

The college also has a "writing across the curriculum" program that requires students to take writing courses in every year of their studies.

These programs have been shown to improve student retention and graduation rates.

The success of Medgar Evers College is a testament to the power of innovation and the importance of creating a supportive environment for students.

The college's story is a model for other urban institutions that are struggling to meet the needs of their students.

By following Medgar Evers College's lead, these institutions can help to create a more just and equitable system of higher education.



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