

Scholarships

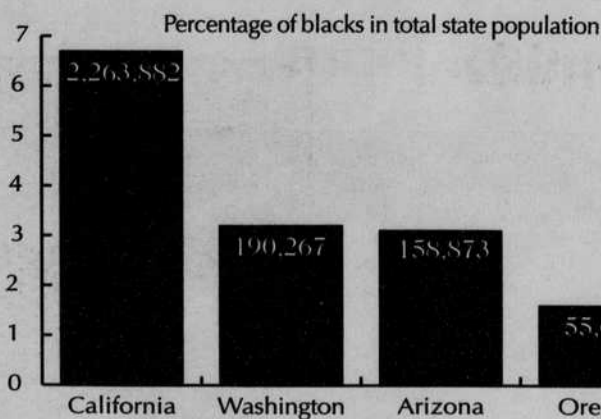
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with only 303 students eligible for admission to state institutions, you can imagine the significant obstacles (Oregon University System) schools have in helping this population get to college."

According to statistics from the 2000 census, Oregon has 55,662 black individuals — or 1.6 percent of the population. These numbers are dramatically lower than those of Arizona, California and Washington, both in terms of total population and percentage of the population.

"The recruitment of students of color is often the most challenging task we face in admissions," Hulick-Baiza said. "Not because minority students don't want to go to college — we do — but because both students and universities have to contend with numerous social, political, economic and educational obstacles that make it much more difficult to make it to college. The most basic problems we face in getting underrepresented students into college are not found at the college level, but at much earlier stages of their education."

The value of a college education is-



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

n't a priority for many black males, members of the Black Student Union said. Some black men grow up wanting to play professional sports or to be recording stars, not to become doctors or lawyers.

But Huhndorf said the University could help remedy the problem by offering courses that pertain to the interests of ethnic minorities, by hiring more faculty of color and by providing more academic scholarships to underrepresented groups.

"This is a university that hasn't prioritized diversity in terms of academics. There's absolutely more that can

be done," Huhndorf said. "The University has dragged its feet forever on this issue."

In May 2001, the University established the Center on Diversity and Community to research and study diversity on campus. Steve Bender, a CODAC member and University law professor, said the group works to evaluate the University on its diversity and on issues that threaten diversity. Bender said he and many other faculty members have been pressing the University to address diversity issues for years, but to no avail.

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