Poster Presentation P22

REPRESENTING AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS AT IWU: EXPLORATIONS IN VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL METHODS

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Using the visual media of photography and collaborative ethnographic research methods, this poster presentation aims to facilitate discussion about issues that are important to the African-American student body at IWU. By examining the photographs taken during the ethnographer's participant-observation of activities commemorating Black History Month, the subjects conclude that they share a common cultural identity of being a minority group on a predominantly white campus. This research highlights the bond shared by African-American students that is cultivated by their rich common history, which they celebrate on and off campus with music and food. A common sentiment subjects convey is the conflict between seeking support among themselves and assimilating with the majority culture.