

To accomplish these objectives, the Institute implemented a multi-method approach consisting of four specific strategies. These included:

Review of the Literature. Institute staff conducted an in-depth review of the literature bearing on the educational status of black males. Included in this review were library references, government documents, institutional reports, and statistical summaries.

Expert Testimony. A panel of experts representing various fields of study was assembled to conduct a preliminary exploration of the issues. It was felt that through their differing perspectives, the expert panel could provide a wholistic view of the problem. Panel members included:

1. Dr. William C. Brown, Director, Institute of Higher Educational Opportunity, Southern Regional Educational Board in Atlanta, serving as educator;
2. Dr. Edgar Epps, Professor, University of Chicago, serving as sociologist;
3. Dr. Asa Hilliard, Professor, Georgia State College, serving as psychologist;
4. Dr. R. Grann Lloyd, Research Professor of Economics and Director of Business Studies, University of North Florida, serving as economist;
5. Dr. Leedell Neyland, Vice President, Florida A & M University, serving as historian.

The expert panel met for a working retreat/brain-storming session on February 2-3, 1984, at Amelia Island, Florida. During that time, the dimensions of the problem were explored and preliminary research data were supplemented by information supplied by the experts. The panel also compared the statistics of Florida with those on the national level.

Regional Hearings. As a consequence of the sessions with the expert panel, it was decided that hearings on the educational condition of black males should be held throughout the state. These hearings were held at five Florida urban community colleges:

Dates	Host Institutions
March 15, 1984	Broward Community College
March 16, 1984	Miami-Dade Community College
March 23, 1984	Florida Junior College at Jacksonville
April 12, 1984	Hillsborough Community College
April 19, 1984	Valencia Community College

Invitations to each session were sent to area school superintendents, community college and university presidents, and others who were interested in the subject. Participants were asked to address four questions:

1. What is the level of black males in our schools?
2. To what do you attribute the reasons for black males performing so poorly?
3. Are you aware of any programs or activities in your community or elsewhere that are designed to help black males improve their performance?
4. What intervention strategies should be instituted to improve the educational status of black males in Florida?