

Mentoring Hbcu Students through Research Assistantship in Socio-Cybersecurity. Teambuilding with Sociology and Computer Science Students

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Abstract

This paper explores the impact of role models on effective research assistant mentorships for students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the United States of America. The research is grounded in the role model theory, which premises that faculty-mentors can demonstrate to mentees how something is done in a technical sense. The data for this project is based on the end of year written reflections of twenty-five research assistants, as well as their conference posters and presentations. The impact of the mentor on students' progress on the development of a desktop application is also examined. The methodology was a narrative analysis of this qualitative data. The conclusion is that the role model theory is appropriate in understanding under-represented minority students' mentorship and how their mentors can be bootstrap sources for future expectations.

Keywords: Socio-Cybersecurity, Mentoring, Role Model, Qualitative Interviews