

## HI 404 – Achievement Gap in Schools and Society

### Group Exercise: Pathways to College

Your *academic autobiography* tells an important story about you, your beliefs and choices, and those who have influenced you over the years. For this activity, we'd like you first to spend a couple minutes reflecting on your *pathway to college and persistence in college*. Then, we'd like each of you to tell your story to your group, guided by the following questions:

- When do you first remember knowing you would go to college?
  - How did you know?
  - Who talked with you about it?
  - How/From whom did you learn how to *access* college (cultural capital)?
  - How did your *achievements* prepare you for or allow you to access college?
- Why did you decide to go to college?
- What did you “bring” to college that enabled you to achieve (assets)?
- What memory stands out from your first day/week/semester at college?
- What challenges have you encountered in college; what did Edgewood do (or could have done) to alleviate them?
- In college, have you ever felt like you didn't belong or fit in (marginalization)? Why?
  - Have you ever thought about leaving? Why? What caused you to stay?
- How do you define *achievement* in college?
- How do you feel you have changed because of your college experience?
  - Who or what has been responsible for those changes?

As you share and discuss your personal stories, pay attention to commonalities/differences among your narratives. Also, consider how your story might be similar/different from someone of a different race, class, or gender.