Overview
In February 2018, the Multi-Intuitional Study of Leadership (MSL) was disseminated to a random sample of 4,000 University of Maryland undergraduate students; 891 (22.3%) useable responses were collected. The MSL examines socially responsible leadership skills, as conceptualized in the Social Change Model, and practices and the campus experiences and environments theorized to contribute to leadership development in college. The Social Change Model envisions leadership to exist in six components: Consciousness of Self, Congruence, Commitment, Collaboration, Controversy with Civility, and Citizenship. The MSL was first administered in 2006 and has since been used by over 350 institutions. In 2018, over 80 higher education institutions participated across five countries, including 9 of the 14 Big10 Institutions listed in the Appendix. For more information on the Social Change Model and the MSL, visit: leadershipstudy.net.

This report highlights findings regarding students’ sense of belonging on campus. It is important to note that this survey was administered relatively shortly after the murder of Lt. Collins at the University of Maryland. During the administration of the MSL, the University of Maryland administered a campus-wide Climate Study, which could have impacted MSL response rates. Differences in both racial groups sense of belonging at the University of Maryland are explored as well as how racial groups compare to their BIG10 counterparts (N = 6,407; 22.9% response rate). A breakdown of student respondents by racial group are presented below. Of note, the University of Maryland student population is 38% White compared to a combined 57% across all participating BIG10 institutions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>UMD</th>
<th>BIG10 without UMD</th>
<th>BIG10 including UMD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White/Caucasian</td>
<td>38.3%</td>
<td>58.8%</td>
<td>57.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American/Black</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinx/Hispanic</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This information is self-reported by respondents.

For this study, any racial group that falls below 5% of participants will not be analyzed. Therefore, the following racial groups have been left out of the remainder of the report: Middle Eastern/North African, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and those without a race/ethnicity listed.

Highlights
Examining the responses of University of Maryland students and their BIG 10 counterparts in relation to sense of belonging on campus produced a number of highlights further detailed in this report:

- Compared to students enrolled at other BIG10 institutions, University of Maryland students report lower sense of belonging overall.*
- Among all racial groups at the University of Maryland, students who self-identify as Black/African American report lower sense of belonging on campus than their White peers.**
- Within all respondents in the BIG 10, students who self-identify as Black/African American**, Latino/Hispanic*, and Asian* report lower sense of belonging on campus than their White peers.
Findings

Sense of Belonging

The Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership measures student’s sense of belonging through three separate questions measured on a scale of 1-5, 1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree. The three items are (α = 0.867):

- I feel valued as a person at this school
- I feel accepted as a part of this campus community
- I feel I belong on this campus

When examining responses, multiple analyses investigating racial group differences were conducted. First, all UMD students were compared to other BIG10 respondents, the results of which indicate that students attending UMD report lower sense of belonging compared to students enrolled at other BIG10 institutions*.

Second, UMD students and respondents at other BIG10 institutions who indicated they were a member of the same racial groups were compared (i.e., “sense of belonging scores for Black/African American students enrolled at the University of Maryland were compared to Black/African American students enrolled other BIG10 institutions). These analyses indicated that on the sense of belonging items, there were no differences between students of the same racial group at different institutions.

### Sense of Belonging: Racial Comparisons (Within BIG10 and UMD)

- **Higher than ALL OTHER groups.**
- **Lower than ALL OTHER groups.**
- **Higher than Black/African American students ONLY.**
- **Lower than White and Multiracial students ONLY.**
- **Higher than Black/African American ONLY.**

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* p <0.001, ** p <0.01, * p < 0.05
Third, racial group comparisons within the BIG10 (including UMD) and then within UMD specifically were conducted. Comparing all respondents in the BIG10 produced a number of statistical differences. Most notable are the following:

- Students who identified as Black/African American reported statically lower levels of belonging across the BIG10 compared to all other racial/ethnic groups.***
- Students who identified as White reported statically higher levels of belonging across the BIG10 compared to all other racial/ethnic groups.***
- Latino/Hispanic, Asian, and Multiracial BIG10 students reported sense of belonging scores did not differ statistically from each other.

Conducting the same analyses for just those students attending the University of Maryland produced slightly different findings:

- Black/African students at UMD reported lower sense of belonging scores than White*** and Multiracial* students, however their scores were not statistically different than Asian nor Latino/Hispanic students.
- White students reported higher sense of belonging scores than Black/African American*** students, but they were not statistically different from any other racial/ethnic group.
- Asian and Latino/Hispanic students did not differ from any other racial/ethnic groups.

Finally, analyses were conducted for all BIG10 respondents (UMD included) exploring gender differences on belonging items separately for each racial group. These analyses were only conducted on all BIG10 respondents due to the number of students in each of the groups when limiting the sample to only those students attending UMD. Differences by gender were only evident in one racial group: Black/African American students,* with Black men reporting higher rates of belonging than Black women.

**Sense of Belonging: Gender Comparisons within Race (BIG10 with UMD included)**
Appendix

Participating Institutions:
- University of Illinois
- Indiana University
- University of Maryland
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota
- Northwestern University
- Purdue University
- Rutgers University
- University of Wisconsin*
- The Ohio State University**

*This university participated in the Big Ten MSL Coalition, but opted out of data sharing.

**This institution participated in the MSL, but was not a part of the BIG10 Coalition.

The research briefs below do not contain data from these institutions.