



From Dr. Juan McGruder, Andre Dowell and members of the Advisory Committee of the Men of Color in Development Affinity Group:

Dear Members of AADO,

We can't believe it's been a year since the African American Development Officers Network (AADO) launched the Men of Color in Development (MOCID) Affinity Group, the first official group. It's been an incredible journey, and we're amazed that Men of Color in Development now has over 200+ members representing a wide variety of professions worldwide. All of our success is attributed to

the support and feedback our members have provided us, so as a thank you, the African American Development Officers Network (AADO) sponsored our virtual celebration. We look forward to sharing parts of our group's history, hearing some member stories, and, most importantly, highlighting our esteemed success.

The Men of Color in Development group seeks to provide a safe and supportive space and to recognize the hard work and dedication of Men of Color in the industry. We provide a variety of networking activities, engaging discussions, and authentic mentorship. The group's goal is to provide the necessary platform, network, and resources to assist men of color in successfully navigating this noble and impactful profession.

Men of Color in Development organized 13 events during its first year. These represented hours of discussions and meetings. The group especially remembers the moments of exchange during these meetings: entertaining, honest, and even moving. Ultimately, these moments create the solid bonds that Men of Color in Development has sought to establish since the group's establishment. We addressed instructive topics at all levels during our meetings. Among others, the following topics were discussed: How to work effectively with fundraising consultants, Journeys in Fundraising, Our Fundraising Forefathers: Black Men's Resourcefulness in the Fight for Liberation, and other exciting presentations. Our meetings often included presentations with some facts and illustrations, followed by Q&A Sessions. This allowed the members to get to know each other based around the topics and to share tips and experiences with others. These moments of discussion were enriched by the anecdotes of the participants, and our members were able to gain authentic perspectives. Our professional development events provided more specialized knowledge through professional development panels such as our "Know the Ins and Outs" of CFRE, How to Show Up & Level Up as Men of Color in Development, and other impactful panel discussions.

Once again, thank you to the Men of Color in Development members for helping us make the past year so successful. Let this amazing affinity group keep on inspiring others, and let's hope for the best in the coming years!