Beyond the Walls of JMU: The Many Faces of the Adult Learner: At School, at Work and in the Community

Dr. Oris Griffin McCoy, Dr. Diane Wilcox & Sevinj Iskandarova
Adult Education/Human Resource Development Department
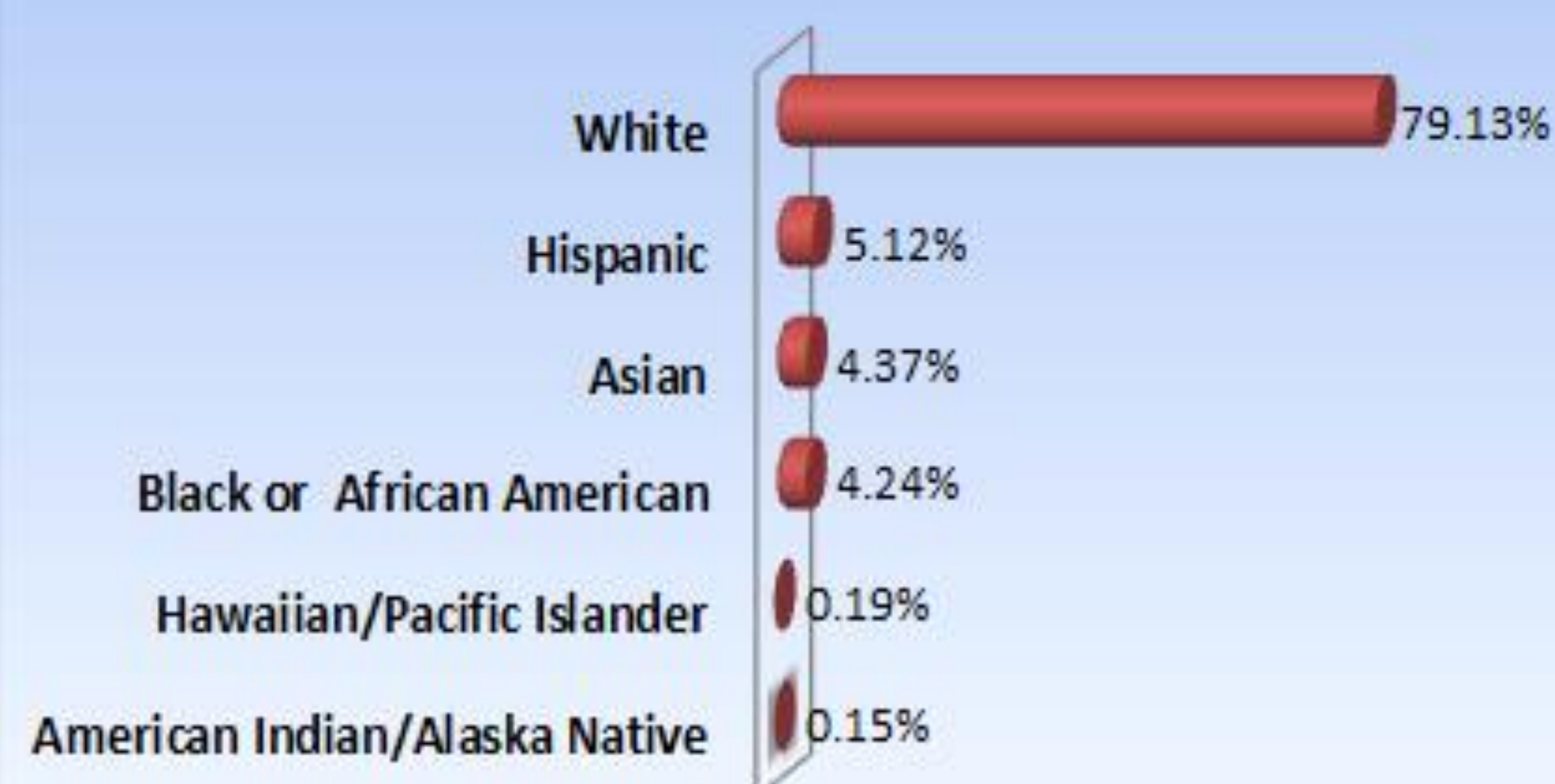
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

Background

- This book club is unique in that it will bring together students enrolled in a JMU graduate course, working professionals, leaders in the field of Human Resource Development, and citizens of the community who may not work in professional jobs.

The goal of the book club is address issues of diversity, beyond the campus and in the communities where students live, work and collaborate.
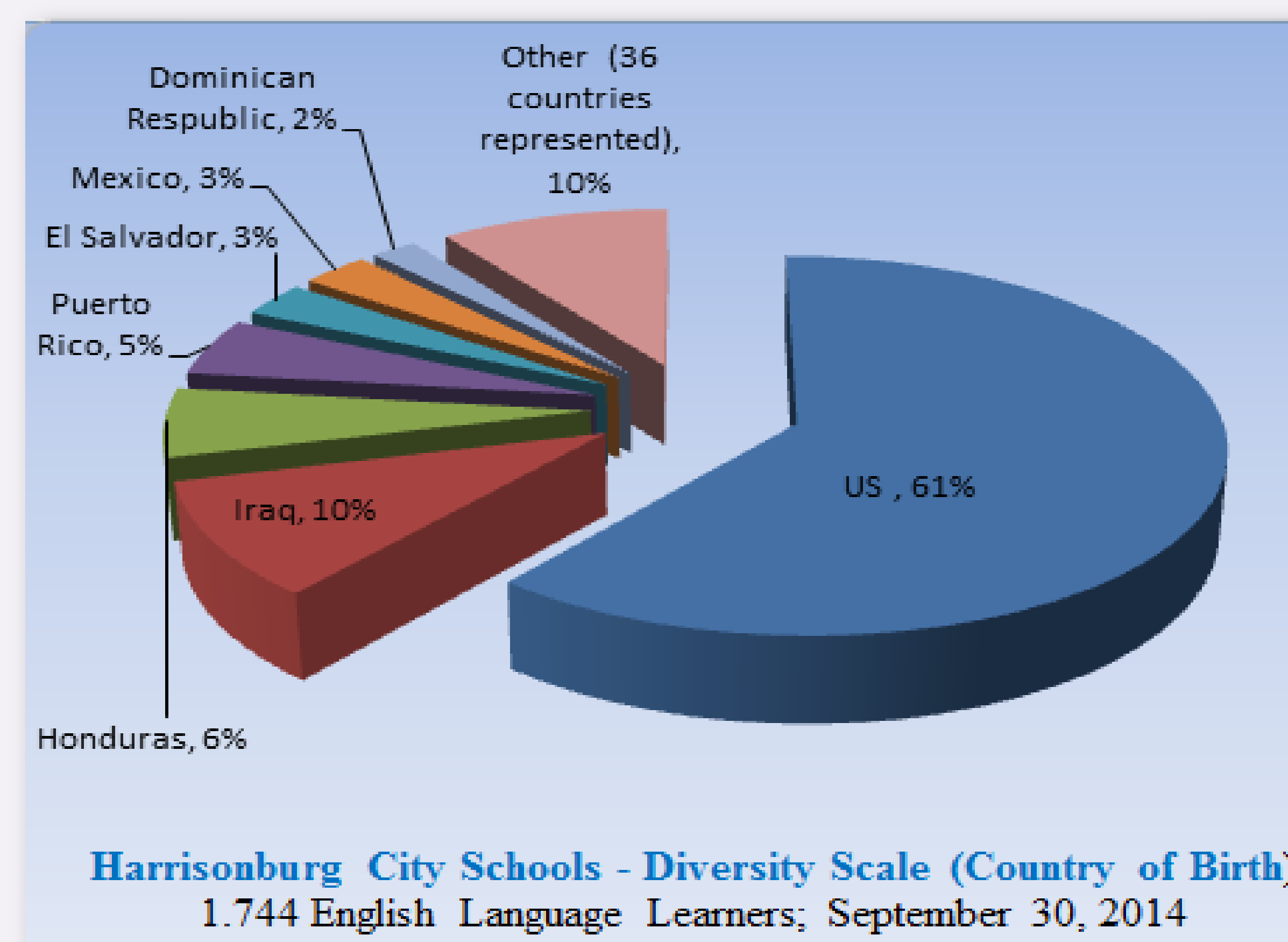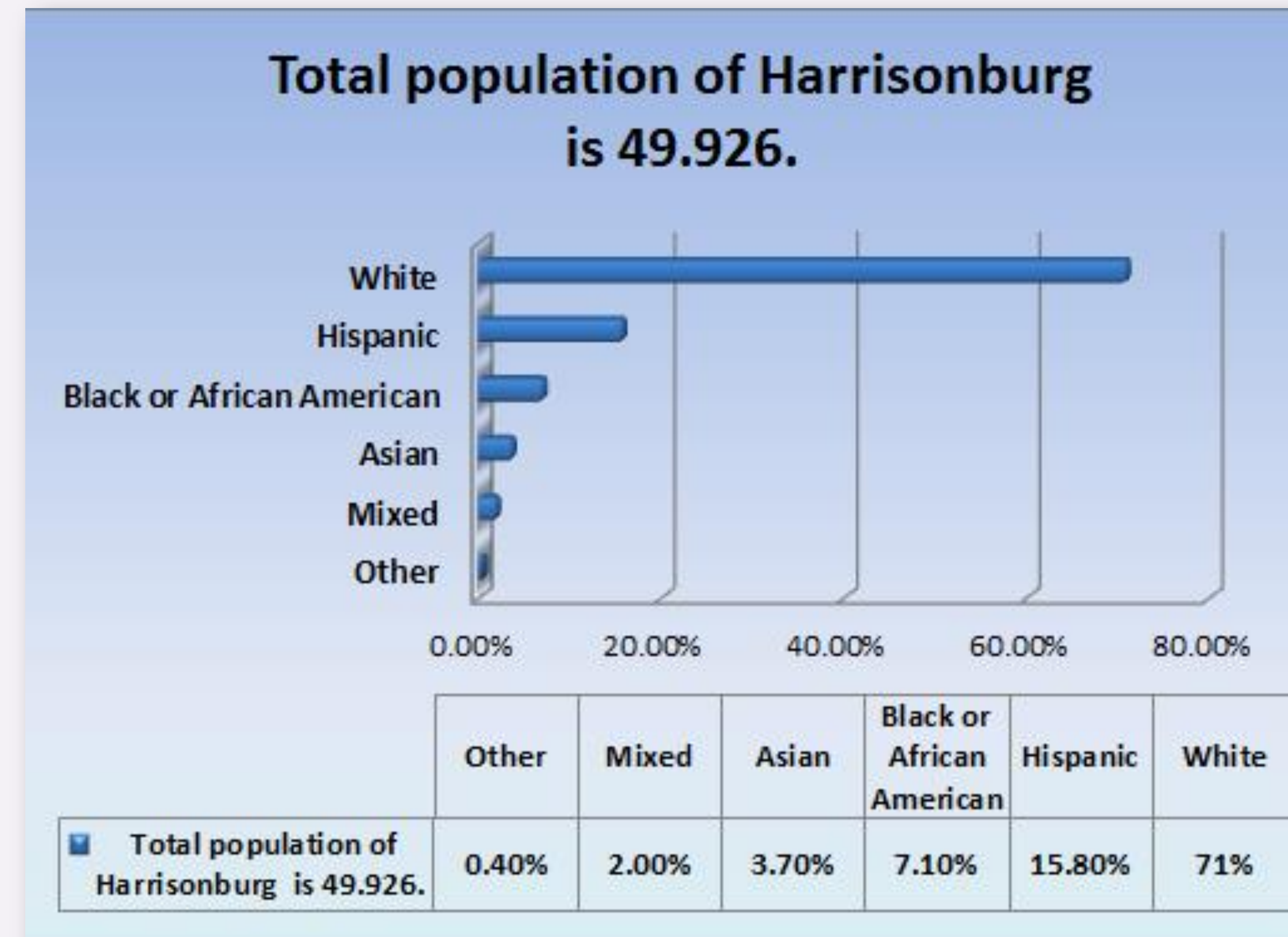
Purpose

➢ This book club attempts to address the limited exposure students have had with members of diverse backgrounds by fostering collaborations with and among community members, students, faculty, and staff.

JMU students` number is over 20.000, including 495 international students

White	79.13%
Hispanic	5.12%
Asian	4.37%
Black or African American	4.24%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.19%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.15%

➢ To use this book club as a springboard for exploring additional ways to foster collaborations between the community and members of the university.

Total population of Harrisonburg is 49.926.

	Other	Mixed	Asian	Black or African American	Hispanic	White
Total population of Harrisonburg is 49.926.	0.40%	2.00%	3.70%	7.10%	15.80%	71%

Harrisonburg City Schools - Diversity Scale (Country of Birth)
1.744 English Language Learners; September 30, 2014

US, 61%; Honduras, 6%; Iraq, 10%; Puerto Rico, 5%; El Salvador, 3%; Mexico, 3%; Dominican Republic, 2%; Other (36 countries represented), 10%
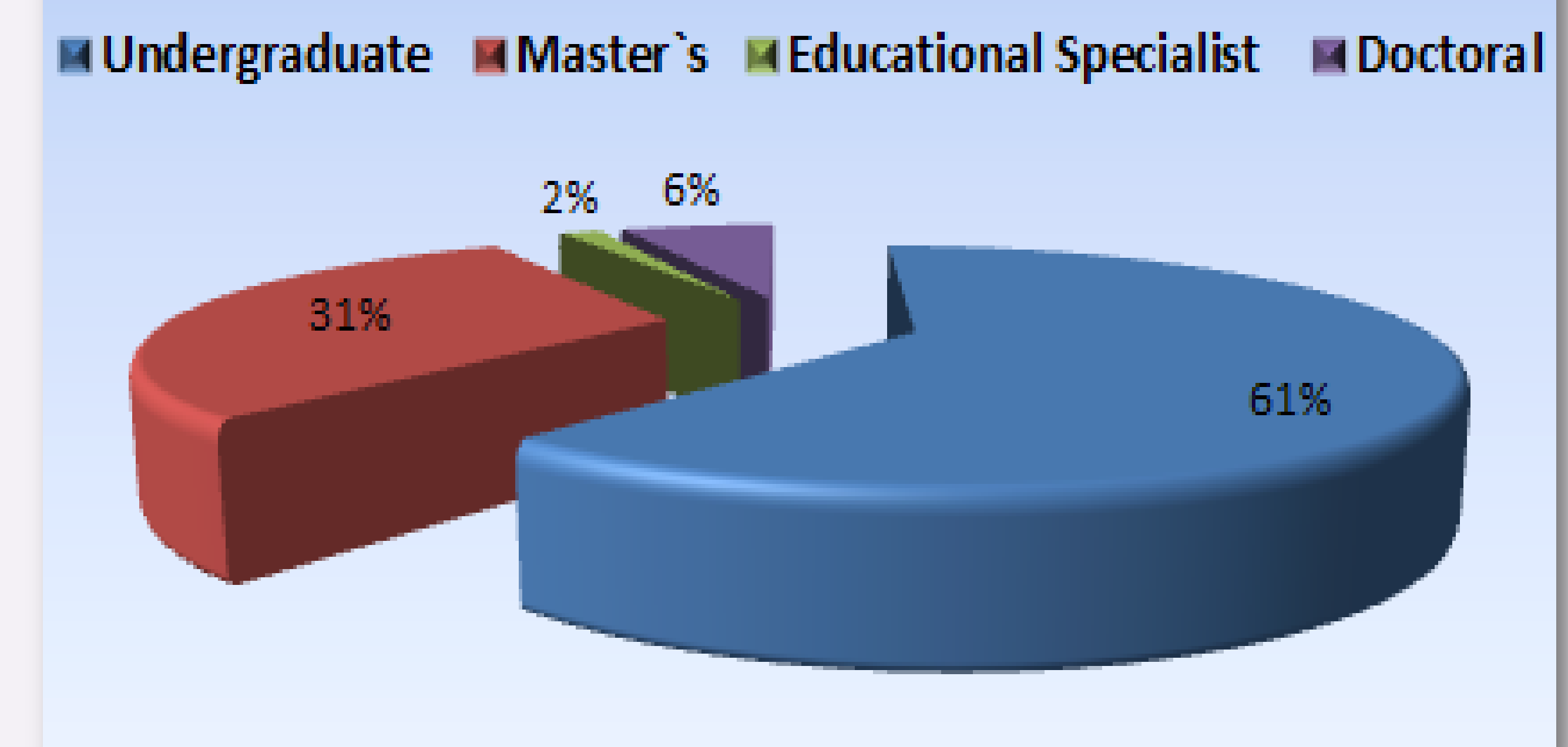
Methodology

❖ These structured meetings will be used to discuss specific books (the books will be selected by the faculty) centered on topics of motivation, diversity, issues of perceptions, and strategies on how to live in a diverse community.

❖ The knowledge gained from the program will be assessed through a pre- and post-test survey.

❖ Students will go out into the community to engage in conversations with individuals from a wide variety of ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

James Madison University Facts

The University offers 124 degree programs

Undergraduate 61% · Master`s 31% · Educational Specialist 2% · Doctoral 6%

Conclusion

- The goal is to provide a non-traditional diverse classroom setting where individuals engage in intentional conversations about issues that have the potential to build community and a platform for participants to explore (real) issues of diversity in the community and the workplace.

James Madison University. (2014). Facts Sheet, Retrieved from
http://www.jmu.edu/_images/news/2014/JMU_Factsheet_03-2015.pdf
Other references available upon request.