Students to attend diversity meeting

The College of Charleston, with the lowest percentage of black students among the state's public colleges, is holding a student diversity town hall meeting today.

The event is the second of three meetings this month. Earlier the college held a meeting for staff, and on Feb. 23 it will hold a meeting for faculty members, said John Bello-Ogunu, the school's new chief officer of diversity.

He hopes the forums will help him more clearly assess where the college stands today, and where it needs to go, in the area of campus diversity.

Black students made up only 3.8 percent of the college's freshman class in 2008, the most recent year for which data is available. Black students comprised 5.7 percent of the undergraduate student body that fall.

In comparison, black students made up 48.8 percent of the freshman class at Francis Marion University, 23.4 percent at Winthrop, 7.7 percent at South Carolina's Columbia campus and 7.3 percent at Clemson.

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Student diversity town hall meeting

WHEN: 4 to 6 p.m. today

WHERE: Admissions Auditorium, Robert Scott Small Building, College of Charleston