In January through March, the Career Readiness and Internship goal of the My Brother’s Keeper Initiative offered 46 opportunities for 684 disadvantaged students, including 334 young men of color.

Lewis J. Bennett School of Innovative Technology

Two local companies have teamed up with LJ Bennett’s Computer Science majors. NormelTech and Thimble have both made a commitment to teach various activities in the students’ classes. Their goal is enriching instruction with real work application. Both companies have also agreed to take a student on as an intern over the summer.

Channel 7 News producer Paula Demico spoke to students in the Graphic Design and Animation major about what goes on behind the scenes in an online news show.

Juniors majoring in Software and Programming, Networking and Hardware, and Graphic Design and Animation visited the Buffalo State College Computer Science Department and the Graphic Design Department at Daemen College. They were able to tour each campus and learn about the coursework and technology available in each respective program.

East Community High School

UB Law Professor and Minority Bar President Tolu Odunsi visited the Criminal Justice students at East. She not only shared insight into a career in law, but also her journey to success. Her message conveyed the importance of determination and hard work. Students left feeling inspired for the future.
Buffalo Employment Opportunity Center Executive Director, Demone Smith, spoke to young men about how to get a job. The presentation covered a variety of topics including résumé writing, interview skills, and dressing for the job. The event concluded with the young men receiving a tie, a tutorial on the four-in-hand knot, and a luncheon prepared by Emerson Annex Culinary Arts students.

Secret Service Special Agents Schmeer and Hamilton spoke to students at East Community High School interested in a public safety career. Topics included the origin of the United States Secret Service, cybercrime, internet safety, career pathways, and both investigative and protective responsibilities within that career. Students were thoroughly engaged and asked a multitude of relevant and insightful questions.

The After School Career Success Program took place in January and February. The program featured curriculum provided by Junior Achievement and focused on critical thinking, creativity, conflict management, and collaboration. Students were also asked to contemplate their work priorities, and examine careers in STEM and other high-growth industries.

Lafayette International’s Building Management students were introduced to the Foundry, an incubator for Buffalo’s emerging small business community. Community members can rent a space or become a member and utilize the tools and machines available. Students toured the Woodshop, Metalshop, Fiber Arts, and Tech Lab and were able to see past projects created by Buffalo School students.

Students participated in one metalworking workshop each month: Design to Sculpture, Night Lights, and Shelf Brackets.
The Adult Education School of Barbering welcomed young men from Lafayette International for a tour of their facilities and background on their program. Many of the young men have had previous barbering experience and hope to open their own shops. All of the young men left looking stylish with a fresh haircut to show off.

South Park High School

Every Thursday in February through March, students participated in MISSION: IGNITE’s Mobile STEAM Lab, a program packed with experiential learning. Activities included programming robots for search and retrieve missions, creating a Rube Goldberg contraption, mixing up rapidly expanding elephant’s toothpaste, and launching cardboard and foam rockets.

Three guest speakers visited South Park to speak to the Business and Entrepreneurship students about their businesses. Janna Willoughby-Lohr of Papercraft Miracles, Amanda Kelkenberg with the Childcare Resource Network, and Zandra Cunninham founder of Zandra Beauty. Each guest had a unique perspective to offer students, but all three shared the common message of hard work bringing their vision to life.

Contact Us: If you have any questions about the My Brother’s Keeper program, please contact:

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