In December, the Career Readiness and Internship goal of the My Brother’s Keeper Initiative offered 17 opportunities for 307 disadvantaged students, including 177 young men of color.

**Lewis J. Bennett School of Innovative Technology**

Juniors majoring in Software and Programming, Networking and Hardware, and Graphic Design and Animation visited ECC’s Computer Science department. They were able to learn about the coursework and technology available in the two-year program. Each student also received an overview of Turtle Programming in Python where they were able to create code to navigate a turtle throughout a drawing board.

Every Thursday in December, 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 and experimenting with magnetic slime, and mixing up rapidly expanding elephant’s toothpaste.

The Junior Achievement Career Success program at LJB concluded last month. The young men involved completed their résumés, contemplated their work priorities, and examined careers in STEM and other high-growth industries.

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.
East Community High School

Dina Thompson and Andrew Prinzing of the Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition spoke to students exploring careers in Public Safety including Criminal Law, Intro to Paralegal Studies, and Intro to Policing. They discussed the relevancy of restorative justice, the focus on the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with victims and the community at large, in their potential career fields. They also provided an overview of how restorative justice is already being implemented in schools in Buffalo and around the country. The presentation concluded with a role play activity where groups of students were able to apply restorative justice techniques.

Officers Dennis Floyd and Angelo Threat from the Buffalo Police Department along with the directors of the Law Enforcement Training Academy came to speak to students about requirements and realities of a career in law enforcement. Both Officers Floyd and Threat attended East High School and were able to share their experience and change in mindset from their teenage years to the present. Students were engaged and asked questions covering many topics from education requirements and salary to social media and today’s controversial issues.

Lafayette International

Under supervision from Buffalo Maritime Center mentors and staff, Lafayette students began their educational experience building a toolbox. The building process includes marking, measuring, cutting, the basics of math, and proper use of hand and power tools and various materials. The end result is a functional toolbox that the students keep. Under the guidance of trained mentors, students are learning real-life applications of STEM principles, the value of craftsmanship, communication skills, safety awareness, teamwork as they experience the pride and joy of building something with their hands.

Students in the African Drum and Dance class visited Elma Elementary students to feature in a cultural celebration before the holidays. After a demonstration of song and dance, Lafayette students invited the younger students to try each of the instruments and learn some of the steps.

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

Katherine M. Heinle, Director, CTE Office
Erin Selig, Work-Based Learning Coordinator
51 Ontario St.
Buffalo, NY 14207
(716) 816-3700