In the first three months of the school year, the Career Readiness and Internship goal of the My Brother’s Keeper Initiative has offered 26 opportunities for 664 disadvantaged students, including 363 young men of color.

MBK Career Readiness and Internship Highlights

Lewis J. Bennett School of Innovative Technology

On October 19, finalists for Topcoder Challenge visited the LJ Bennett School of Innovative Technology to speak to sophomores taking Introduction to Computing. The speakers covered topics such as STEM careers and showed a video game presentation. Topcoder has worked several projects for NASA including projects involving facial recognition, artificial intelligence and voice recognition. Students were all interested to learn about game development careers.

The entire freshman and sophomore classes of Lewis J. Bennett’s School of Innovative Technology spent Friday, November 3rd and Tuesday November 21st learning about state-of-the-art technology used by Delaware North, a global leader in hospitality management and food service management. The trip focused on cyber security and featured a presentation by a Secret Service Agent, a tour of the facilities, as well as background information about the variety of services provided by the worldwide company. Students worked in groups to generate lists of the various technologies used by the company, potential cyber threats, and prevention and action plans for each.

East Community High School

Students from East Community High School have engaged in myriad opportunities to learn about careers in Health Assisting, Public Safety, and Legal Professions this school year. They have visited a Common Council Meeting at City Hall, embarked on various college tours, and visited the Crime Analysis Center.

One highlight of the year was on October 18 when students visited the Erie County Holding Center for a tour of the facility. Due to security risks, there were no pictures allowed. Students were able to learn the different levels of security – maximum, medium, minimum and the variety of career opportunities. They also had a chance to learn the different styles of facilities. Prisons and jails are set up in multiple ways to assist with managing inmates and maintaining security. Students were able to see linear style units as well as pod style units. They were also exposed to the detox unit and mental health unit. They received the chance to speak with a sergeant, the assistant district attorney, and a sheriff’s deputy.

Another highlight was November 27th 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.
43North hosted its final competition at Shea’s Performing Arts Theater. Students from Lafayette International as well as various other schools throughout the district watched as twelve startup companies pitched their idea for a shot at the grand prize of $1 million as part of a total of $5 million that was given away to eight of the companies. These students will have an opportunity to participate in the 43North Students to StartUps program where they will engage in roundtable discussions with the winners in the spring. The goal of student attendance is to inspire the students’ young entrepreneurial minds and to hopefully participate in the competition some day!

Students taking Business Computer Applications participated in a hands-on Computer Coding Workshop where they explored the introductory building blocks of coding as they created a personalized game board while learning about screen coordinates, pixels, sprites and coding functions in the Touch Develop platform. Students completed the coding session by engaging in a store wide scavenger hunt where they interacted with a variety of new technologies available.

South Park High School

Virtual Enterprise and Marketing students from South Park attended Junior Achievement Job Shadowing sessions where they learned about Microsoft as a business, a culture and a career. Students met Microsoft employees for an overview of all the positions in the store, engaged in activities focused on learning about the various positions available at the Microsoft retail store, and participated in the morning "stand up" meeting.

IMPACT Sports and the Adult Education School of Barbering are waiting to welcome South Park students to learn about career training and opportunities. Personal Training students will attend a morning tour and workout of the Harbor Center facility as well as to engage in a Q&A with owner and personal trainers. Cosmetology students will receive a tour of the school followed by a free haircut.

After School Program

My Brother’s Keeper Career Success After School Program has started with a bang! All four involved schools were nearly at capacity for their first meeting. Students will participate in a variety of learning opportunities, discussions, role playing, and application of career success skills. They will create connections between their school and career expectations, write résumés, apply for jobs, and welcome guest speakers. Pictured below are East Community High School students practicing public speaking and teamwork as they introduce their partner and describe their partner’s dream job.

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

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