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**Monroe College Hosts Inspirational “My Brother’s Keeper”  
Event to Motivate and Empower Local High School Students**

*240 Young Men of Color Hear Powerful Messages about Character, Resilience, and Self-Determination from New York MBK Leaders and NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams*

**BRONX, NY, April 24, 2023** – [Monroe College](#), a national leader in educating first-generation and international students, on Thursday hosted "My Brother’s Keeper: Changing Our Narrative," an important program that inspires young men from local high school students to be confident, resilient, and successful in pursuing their academic, personal, and professional aspirations.

Students from 11 high schools in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Yonkers joined us for a rousing two-hour program that emphasized the importance of having a vision for the future and to keep moving toward it, navigating around any counterproductive challenges that stand in their way.

The young men in attendance were encouraged from the very beginning to believe in themselves and to dream big, achievable dreams. The importance of “finding their why” – the key motivating factor that will propel them forward – was a recurring theme throughout the event.

President Marc Jerome opened the uplifting, motivational program with Joy Tolliver, the College’s Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and General Counsel.

Additional speakers this year included: Dr. Anael Alston, Assistant Commissioner, New York State Education Department’s Office of Access, Equity, and Community Engagement; George Patterson, Senior Director, New York City Department of Education overseeing the My Brother’s Keeper and My Sister’s Keeper Programs; Mark Smith, Senior Vice President, Wells Fargo; and Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate for the City of New York.

Temajio Boodle and Emilio King, two Monroe staff members who are also alumni, also spoke to the students. They shared their personal experiences adjusting to college life and the decisions they made to set themselves up for personal and professional success.

The My Brother's Keeper initiative began in 2014 to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by young people of color. Launched by then-President Barack Obama, its mission is dedicated to helping all young people achieve their potential through educational equity, mentorship, and through community collaborations to solve problems and strengthen outcomes for boys and young men of color.

The College began offering male empowerment programming in 2009, albeit under a different name, to help combat the weak enrollment and even weaker program completion rates for urban minority men.

The My Brother's Keeper program is held each spring on the College's Bronx campus. A similar program was held for young high school women – "My Sister's Keeper: Together, We'll Make HERstory" – last month.

### **ABOUT MONROE COLLEGE**

Founded in 1933, Monroe College is a recognized leader in urban and international education. The College is proud of its innovative programs to increase college access, affordability, and completion outcomes, especially among first-generation students. The strength of its warm, supportive culture is reflected in the personal connections fostered among students, faculty, and staff.

Monroe educates close to 8,000 students each year, offering Certificate, Associate, Bachelor's, and Master's degree programs from campuses in the Bronx, New Rochelle, and St. Lucia. Students may also take courses online.

Programs are offered through seven academic schools, including the Schools of Allied Health Professions, Business and Accounting, Criminal and Social Justice, Education, Hospitality Management and the Culinary Institute of New York (CINY), Information Technology, and Nursing, as well as through King Graduate School. Liberal arts and continuing education programs are also available. For more information and admissions criteria, please visit <http://www.monroecollege.edu/>.

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