
**Monroe University Hosts Annual My Brother's Keeper Event,
Empowering 150 Young Men from Bronx High Schools**

BRONX, NY, April 9, 2025 -- More than 150 high school juniors and seniors from across the Bronx gathered at Monroe University's Bronx campus today for the annual My Brother's Keeper (MBK) event -- an inspiring, full-day empowerment program designed to uplift, mentor, and motivate young men of color to pursue academic and personal success.

Held in the Mintz Auditorium, the event welcomed students from six local high schools: Bronx Envision Academy, Bronx Academy of Health Careers, Earl Monroe New Renaissance Basketball School, Fordham Leadership Academy, Gotham Collaborative High School, and Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change.

This year's theme, "Changing the Narrative," encouraged students to challenge limiting stereotypes and take ownership of their stories. Through dynamic keynote addresses and powerful group discussions, attendees explored themes of self-empowerment, resilience, and the pursuit of purpose.

Marc Jerome, President of Monroe University, and Celso Alvarez, Assistant Vice President of High School Enrollment, opened the day with a call to action, encouraging students to share their voices and embrace their dreams.

The program featured an impressive lineup of speakers, including:

- Dr. Anael Alston, Assistant Commissioner at the New York State Education Department, who delivered a compelling keynote urging students to discover their "why"—their personal motivation to overcome obstacles and achieve greatness.
- George Patterson, Senior Director at the NYC Department of Education and leader of the city's MBK and My Sister's Keeper initiatives, who affirmed the students' worth and potential, reminding them, "You are kings."
- Brandon Corley, Principal of the Earl Monroe New Renaissance Basketball School, who shared his personal journey of perseverance and transformation, highlighting the impact of mentorship and education.

- Emilio Wilson-King and Temajio Boodle, Monroe alumni and current staff, who spoke candidly about their college journeys and the hurdles they overcame to achieve their goals.

The program concluded with a deeply resonant discussion on mental health and emotional wellness led by Dr. Solomon Wells, a Monroe faculty member and student therapist. Dr. Wells emphasized the critical importance of seeking help, reducing stigma, and supporting one another through life's challenges.

"My Brother's Keeper is more than an event -- it's a movement," said President Jerome. "We are proud to host this annual gathering that connects students with leaders, mentors, and peers who believe in their potential and are committed to their success."

Now in its 16th year, Monroe's male empowerment initiative began in 2009 and was reimagined under the national My Brother's Keeper framework, first launched by President Barack Obama in 2014 to address opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color.

The MBK event is provided at no cost to participating schools or families. Lunch was provided for all attendees. A corresponding My Sister's Keeper event, focused on empowering young women, will be held on April 23.

Monroe University extends its sincere thanks to all the educators, speakers, and students who contributed to making this year's event a resounding success.

ABOUT MONROE UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1933, Monroe University is a recognized leader in urban and international education. The University is proud of its innovative programs to increase college access, affordability, and completion outcomes, especially among first-generation students, and for the national recognition it receives for its strong impact on graduates' social mobility.

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