

---

### **Monroe University's Uplifting "My Sister's Keeper" Event Inspires Nearly 200 Young Women from Area High Schools**

**BRONX, NY, April 23, 2025** -- Nearly 200 high school scholars gathered today in the Mintz Auditorium on Monroe University's Bronx campus for *My Sister's Keeper*, a powerful and inspiring event dedicated to connection, affirmation, and the celebration of sisterhood.

This year's theme, *"Together We Rise,"* resonated throughout a morning filled with empowering speeches, personal storytelling, and community building. The event featured special guest speaker Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, who made history as the first Black woman elected to lead the borough.

President Marc Jerome and Dorothy Toran, Executive Director of Entertainment Media and Strategic Initiatives at Monroe, led the two and a half-hour program.

"I am here to tell you, ladies, that anything is possible," said Borough President Gibson. "Don't ever allow someone to define your future, your value, your worth. Know that you are sufficient. You are the author of your own story."

Students from across the Bronx came together to share their voices and dreams -- and to support one another. A unifying phrase echoed throughout the auditorium: *"I got you, girl."*

"We shared lots of affirmations of 'Hey, Queen' and 'We got you, Sis!'" said Dorothy Toran. "It's our way of saying, 'I see you. I value you. Your voice matters.'"

Monroe alumna Jaden Williams, now part of the University's staff, delivered a deeply moving reflection on healing and growth after the loss of her brother. Her words emphasized resilience, spirituality, and self-love.

"I didn't stay there," Williams said, speaking about her struggles during college. "I tapped into the values instilled in me during childhood. I leaned into the spirituality passed down from my mother... I am clocking me."

The emotional impact of the event was profound for many attendees. Samantha Adu, a student at the Charter School of Educational Excellence, spoke of the inspiration she drew from seeing women who reflect her own heritage and experiences.

"I come from Ghana, and I see women who look like me -- women of color, African women. I am so happy to be a part of this," Adu said.

Natalia Velo, a student at the High School for Law Enforcement and Public Safety, echoed the sentiment: "I loved seeing all of the women here -- so strong, so powerful. It was just a beautiful experience, one I think every woman should have."

Hosted annually by Monroe University, *My Sister's Keeper* is part of the institution's broader mission to uplift young women, build confidence, and foster community.

"This is one of my favorite events of the year," said President Marc Jerome. "To see these young women standing up, speaking out, and supporting one another -- it's incredibly powerful. I look forward to it every year."

## **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>.

# # #