



My Brother's Keeper (RCAH)

Audience

Whom are you serving? Include demographic data:

"My Brother's Keeper" is a mentoring and service-learning program for at-risk Detroit middle school students with emphasis on the African American male. Beginning Fall 2014, MBK will also include African American female students as well.

The program serves 55 - 60 participants each semester. Participants include MBK mentees (5th - 8th grade) and MBK mentors (MSU undergraduate and graduate students). There are approximately 25 males and 25 female mentees. MBK mentors consist of approximately 10 males and 5 male mentors. All mentees are African American students enrolled in the the Paul Robeson Malcolm X Academy, a K - 8th grade Detroit Public School.

All MBK mentees are African American MBK mentors consist of 3 African American female mentors, 8 white female mentors, 3 African American male mentors and 2 white male mentors.

Emphasis is on young African American men because they are potentially at risk of becoming part of the grim statistics of the "endangered species." Young African American males are beleaguered by high rates of drug use, homicide, school dropout, crime, and unemployment. Our goal is to counter these images with positive reflections of themselves through early intervention programming with consciously educated mentors.

What were the criteria for admission to your program?

- MBK admission criteria for Mentees include:
- *5th - 8th grade student attending the Paul Robeson Malcolm X Academy
 - *Completed and signed parental permission form, medical form, and media permissions form
 - *Completion of MBK mentee orientation (standards of conduct, rules, and procedures)

- MBK admission criteria for MBK Mentors include:
- *Undergraduate or graduate student enrolled at MSU
 - *Completion of MBK Mentor orientation and training
 - *Completion of MBK application and MSU criminal background check form (with no discrepancies)
 - *Regular attendance and participation in all MBK planning sessions and Saturday workshops.

What did you DO (outputs)?

Detroit Remix: (Re)Invention, Creativity, Performance:
This year's MBK theme explores ways Detroit youth perform their own style of political, social, and cultural remixes in the creation of democratic processes within their own communities. Towards these ends, our work this year is organized around the intentionally broad theme of "performance" or "performativity." MBK has already conducted six (6) interactive workshops organized around this theme, focusing on theater, music, spoken word poetry, dance, and more.

Outcomes

What DID you accomplish (outcomes)? This should be the largest section.

The evaluation of this theme is on-going; sessions are scheduled through Spring 2015. Based on current student evaluations, the performance has clearly provided students with opportunities to experiment with multiple forms of personal and collective expression. Written reflections from MBK mentees and mentors testify to the potential of performance to serve as a meaningful act of self-expression and social commentary.

Additional Significant Information

- MSU Engaged Scholar magazine will publish article on MBK this month (December 2014)
- "My Brother's Keeper" became a federal White House initiative in 2014

Include non-monetary contributions (volunteer time, facilities, etc) here?

For the first time, MBK has a full-time Graduate Assistant, funded by African American and African Studies. G.A. assists the Program Director as "MBK Graduate Coordinator." MBK receives the generous support of the RCAH Assistant Dean for Civic Engagement (Vincent Delgado), the RCAH Diversity Coordinator the RCAH Undergraduate Research Assistantship Program, and various in-kind contributions from Detroit Public Schools, MSU Vice President of Auxiliary Services (Vennie Gore), and various on-campus student organizations.

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