

Pillars Program Students Enjoy Eventful Last Day

The University is part of the citywide Pillars of Hope program, an initiative of the City of Rochester's Bureau of Youth Services that recruits African-American professionals to serve as role models for students and to share personal stories of overcoming obstacles in their lives. Once a month during the academic year, these "Pillars of Hope" meet with a classroom of students at Rochester City School District School #29 to offer educational support and an example of success for urban students.

On May 30, 2009 the students visited the Memorial Art Gallery and enjoyed a tour lead by Deborah McDell-Hernandez. For all of the students and several of the staff chaperones, this was their first visit to the museum. After the tour they were treated to a lunch by their Pillars program staff. When they returned to the classroom at the end of the day another treat was in store for them.

The Office of Human Resources-- Multicultural Affairs and Inclusion received a grant from First Book, an organization that provides books for students in an effort to address literacy needs. Mrs. Wendy Ferris, 5th grade teacher at school #29, had the opportunity to select books from the First Book catalog for each child in her classroom based on the individual interest area and reading level of each child. The class was also provided with books for learning math, science and history. Janice Holland, Recruitment Specialist, states, "It was a pleasure to see the children's expression of happiness as they received their books. Their enthusiasm was truly a delight."

