Minority Male Leadership Association (MMLA)

The Minority Male Leadership Association (MMLA) is proud to be one of the premiere affinity groups at the University of Rochester. MMLA was established in the winter of 2013 by several minority men on campus, with a mission to both "explore the characteristics of successful minority male leaders and create a community of young driven minority men focused on success by providing mentorship and promoting excellence." Driven to improve the plight of young men in the Rochester City School District who are graduating from high school at a rate of 9 percent (www.blackboysreport.org/urgency-of-now.pdf), the men of MMLA have partnered with faculty, staff, undergraduate and graduate students, and community sponsors to develop several mentoring programs and leadership symposia.

Minority Male Leadership Association Scholars (MMLAS) Program: Led by four University of Rochester freshmen—Yuki González, Raymond Lopez-Rios, Carlos Rojas, and Lawrence Wilmore—the vision of mentorship of MMLA was extended by creating the MMLA Scholars (MMLAS) program. This program will serve as a continuum of mentor relationships among minority male high school and college students to empower one another to become leaders, realize their dreams, and make the world better along the way. On Friday, March 21, 2014, MMLAS will launch a series of dynamic weekly workshops at James Monroe High School that will focus on leadership, time management, goal setting, critical thinking, networking, and empowerment. We are excited for this mentorship opportunity.

Minority Male Success Symposium: Last April, MMLA hosted the first annual Minority Male Success Symposium. This has been deemed its marquee event with high-profile speakers and breakout sessions that encourage real-time interaction between the high school students, undergraduates, graduate-level students, and local business professionals. Thirty-five high school students, 40 college students, and 35 graduate students as well as faculty and staff volunteers were in attendance. News media outlets such as the Minority Reporter and local news affiliate YNN covered the event.

This spring, MMLA will host its second annual Minority Male Success Symposium at the Simon Business School on the University of Rochester campus on April 19. The symposium is scheduled to include interactive breakout sessions that engage all participants—providing students with life skills, encouragement, and preparation to succeed in their endeavors. Accomplishing another year of successful events links directly with the overall mission of the organization, which is to provide mentorship and promote excellence for minority youth.

Peer Mentoring: In addition to helping at-risk males in the Rochester City School District graduate, MMLA hosts a number of campus activities that foster brotherhood among minority male students at the University of Rochester, both undergraduate and graduate. Based on Shaun Harper’s research at UPENN on peer pedagogy among successful minority male students, MMLA created a community that fosters informal mentorship and encourages academic excellence. This spring MMLA will host its first annual Charles Augustus Thompson Gala to honor and celebrate its mentors and mentees.

For more information about MMLA, email us at minoritymaleleadershiproc@gmail.com.