



## **Sponsored Program's Student Success Story - Talik Farmer**

Talik Farmer is completing his freshman year studying Sports Management at SUNY Broome. He grew up in Brooklyn, NY and is the youngest member in his family. Talik stated, "I am the first one in my family to go away to college, and I am setting an example for my cousins and nephews."

When Talik arrived at SUNY Broome and received information about the Men of Excellence, he knew immediately that he wanted to be a part of this group. Its members strive to live by the following oath: "I will grow in character with the person standing next to me. I will work diligently inside and outside the classroom. I will strive to hold my fellow Men of Excellence accountable for their actions. I will respect all people and the diversity in our world. I will reflect upon my identities and specifically reflect upon healthy masculinity. I will challenge my worldview through constant reflection and the seeking of greater knowledge and truth. This is the excellent man I believe in. This is the excellent man I am building. This is the excellent man I will be."

His involvement with Men of Excellence led to Talik being hired as the Student Coordinator of SUNY Broome's new "Lunch with the Law" program. A Broome County Youth Bureau grant funds both Talik's position and the program activities he coordinates. Administered by Sponsored Programs staff in cooperation with the EOP Director, "Lunch with the Law" is intended to reduce bias in our community and in law enforcement, and to combat stereotypes about police officers.

The program launched in May, with Talik facilitating a Kickoff Lunch at UE High School. Along with members of the Men of Excellence, black and brown young men who attend middle and high school came together to share their perceptions and engage in tough conversations with police cadets from the Broome County Sheriff's Police Training Academy. More than 90 youth and cadets participated in this event!

From this successful beginning, Talik and program partners hope "Lunch with the Law" continues to lead participants on an impactful journey that inspires meaningful growth in the lives of those involved and plants a seed for future criminal justice majors. Currently, the program is on track to resume in the fall, with Talik picking up where he left off - brainstorming interactive group activities, engaging his fellow Men of Excellence, and recruiting a variety of judicial professionals to share in monthly luncheons and dialogue.

As for his own future, Talik hopes to pursue his education beyond graduating from SUNY Broome. His goals are to become a boss in a company and move out of his current home environment so he can raise a family in a safer setting. He loves to play basketball, shop, and eat, so he says he is going to have to make a lot of money to support his hobbies. And when asked about his experiences at SUNY Broome, Talik stated, "My favorite aspect of SUNY Broome is that even though it is small, the people here make it feel like a big university. I also want to give a big thank you to everyone giving me the opportunity to let my light shine a little brighter."

Talik is taking the initiative to better himself through higher education. He is motivated to be a positive influence on his peers and today's youth. He is a soft-spoken young man who has broken out of his comfort zone to coordinate "Lunch with the Law." For these reasons alone, the story of Talik Farmer truly is a shining example of student success at SUNY Broome.

