

# MILESTONE 4

## COMPLETING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION OR TRAINING

### Lead Stakeholders:

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Arnaldo Gonzalez – 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project

### Indicators:

Data should be separated by gender, race and ethnicity.

- Percentage of students enrolled in college after high school
- Percentage of students enrolled in professional training activity

### Background:

Although not guaranteed, post-secondary education is a sound pathway toward employment. Young men of color in Miami-Dade should be given the same opportunities, guidance and support to register and complete a post-secondary degree. Vocational training is also a route that leads to employment and a viable economically-profitable alternative for many of these young men.

### MBK Challenges:

- Create a system of support for young men of color that provides a pathway from high school to college graduation or a career.
- Provide vocational workforce readiness opportunities for students who struggle academically, such as: plumbing, construction, welding apprentice courses that lead to certification produce jobs that will provide a living wage.

### Overarching Principles:

- Parent engagement from cradle to career
- Positive youth engagement to ensure youth involvement

### MBK Actions for Transformation:

- 1) Enhance career education through target pathways and technical education; college is not the only pathway for having a successful career.
  - a. Florida Memorial University (FMU) received the Career Pathway Initiative (CPI) grant from the Lilly Foundation in collaboration with the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) in the amount of 1.25 million dollars to enhance our academic offerings to meet the industry demands. In addition, to meeting the industry demands the grant will prepare our young men and women matriculating at FMU with skills to compete and win in their field of study. Our Black Male College Explorers Program (BMCEP) has also benefited from FMU competing and winning this very competitive grant because students in the BMCEP has also included career pathways for our young men we serve in the BMCEP program.

Programs such as Florida Memorial University's Career Pathway Initiative and Black Male College Explorers, along with Miami-Dade Public Schools' 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project, offer students a wider vision of career opportunities available to maximize their future.

b. The BMCEP has established several MOU's with industry leaders as well as organizations that will assist our young black males with resources, career exposure and experiences that will better prepare them to make better decisions regarding college and careers. We have also partnered with the 5000 Role Models of Excellence to provide all young men of color with college opportunities and summer matriculation with our BMCEP. We also have "Wilson Scholars" attending FMU.

2) Develop and expand practices for education-employment-industries alignment.

a. Develop memorandums-of-understanding with industry leaders to increase internship/job-shadowing opportunities.

3) Create partnerships for pathways within the colleges, universities, trade schools and professional organizations to include police departments, fire departments and governmental agencies.

a. FMU has also created career pathways partnerships with Miami Beacon Council which was instrumental in FMU receiving the CPI grant from the UNCF and Lily Foundation, Miami Dade Chamber of Commerce, the UNCF and other economic and business entities that will provide career alternatives for the population we serve.

4) The BMCEP Parent Advisory Board has been in place for over ten (10) years at FMU. The BMCEP Parent Advisory Board meets the first Saturday of every month on campus (FMU) to discuss with university administration and the program Director (BMCEP) on how to better help students in the BMCEP. The Parent Advisory Board assist the program with fundraising and sharing of ideas. The BMCEP has 100% graduation rate, 98% percent attends college, and retention rate is 85% on a yearly basis.

5) Support and enhance educational mentoring services through the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project "Mentoring through Writing Curriculum." Participants will attain the following:

a. 90% of the mentees will maintain or improve their grades. This will be measured by review of report cards pre- and post-participation.

b. 85% of the mentees will maintain or improve in school behavioral evaluations (i.e., decrease in number of absences, suspension or behavioral referrals). This will be measured by reviewing of school behavioral records.

c. 90% of the mentees will graduate or be promoted to the next grade level. This will be measured by promotions and graduation records.

**Goals of the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project for Miami-Dade high school students is to maintain or improve grades, behavior and ultimately reach promotion to the next grade level or graduation.**