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*****P R E S S R E L E A S E*****

A Community Within A Community *Roosevelt Union Free School District Becomes Certified* *My Brother's Keeper Community*

Roosevelt, NY (SEPTEMBER 2021)—Every year, the Roosevelt Union Free School District works to identify new ways to elevate the academic experience of its students to ensure they are both academically and socially prepared. This year, the work to engage the young men of color in the District has been taken to a new level as the Roosevelt School District has now become a My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Community!

“The My Brother's Keeper program has been an invaluable resource in the District and has truly provided our young men with resources that highlight the integral role they play in this District and in society,” said Dr. Deborah L. Wortham, Superintendent of Schools. “Becoming an MBK Community will provide increased opportunities for our male students of color to identify role models and pathways that will best serve them in their scholastic and social-emotional growth.”

After completing several preliminary steps to secure Community status, the New York State Education Department officially recognized the Roosevelt Union Free School District as an MBK Community. The Roosevelt School District is one of four districts to receive this acknowledgement from the State Education Department. The District now joins an elite network composed of over 25 MBK Communities throughout New York that work to implement programs and strategies designed to improve outcomes for boys and young men of color and help them realize their limitless potential.

As its first program since becoming a certified MBK Community, the Roosevelt School District My Brother's Keeper chapter is launching its Mastermind book study. This program will provide young men participating in MBK with the chance to read several books that delve into the unique experiences of men of color across different cultures. The program includes books such as *Madd Truth* by Alfonso Wyatt, *When I Was Puerto Rican* by Esmeralda Santiago, and *Brooklyn Bred* by Attika Torrence.

To learn more about the Roosevelt Union Free School District, please visit the District's website at <https://www.rooseveltufsd.org/> and remember to 'like' this page for more Roosevelt news.