

**“To be truly great, men must learn to stand with others not above them. Unity brings success”**

**Charles De Montesquieu**

**Going into its fifth year, the BMI has made an indelible impression on many of the students. Here’s what some of them have to say:**

“BMI has helped me a lot; it encouraged me to become a better person. It was just what I needed for my transition into college. I wake up now every morning making sure I am well dressed, and that I have a well balanced day. BMI was my motivator.”  
(Kerry Mackey, Junior - Bahamas)

“BMI has showed me the importance of making a difference as a Black male in my community. The spotlight is already on me...why not make a big impact and shine? If you want to become a well rounded gent, I strongly advise you to take an active role in BMI.”  
(Justin Cain, Senior - Chicago)

“BMI is a great program, it has allowed me to see the best in myself. It has also inspired me to help other brothers to see the same and better themselves.”  
(Anthony McIntosh, Junior - Kansas)

*Front Photo: The men of Black Male Initiative pose in front of a cumulative black-and-white photo exhibit displaying BMI events and programs since the program’s inception.*



BLACK MALE INITIATIVE

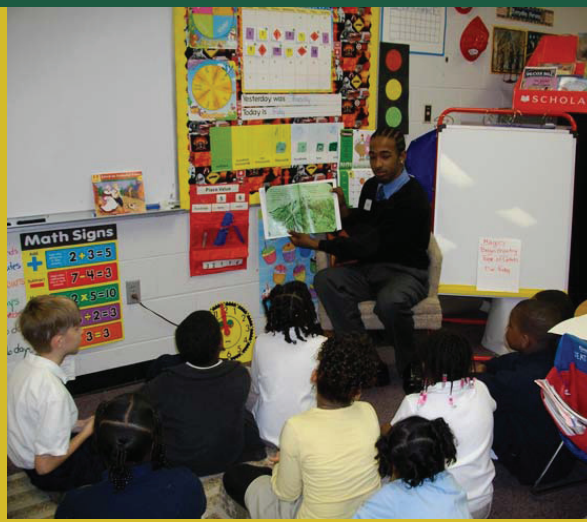


THINK JUSTICE

## History of BMI

**In 2007, President Walter Kimbrough was inspired to address the challenges faced by Black men attending college in order to ensure their success. The president pulled together a committee to explore innovative ways to engage the men at Philander Smith College which resulted in the formation of the Black Male Initiative (BMI).**

**Through a series of special programming, events and activities, BMI provides opportunities for male students to connect with each other, faculty and staff and community role models with the goal of positively impacting these students' college experience to lead the way to their graduation.**



**ViP's Reading Day**



**Graduation**



**Dinner In The Dark**



**PBD Closing Dinner**

### Mission

To provide relevant experiences for males that will ensure success academically, professionally and socially through development in the following areas:

- Education/retention, leadership, social justice issues, community involvement, cultural and spiritual enlightenment

### Retention

Retention is addressed by two of the four BMI peer educators who are tutors in our Academic Success Center. This year, the tutors received requests from 70 percent of the males in the Academic Success Center. Another strategy impacting male retention is the Early Alert program which helps identify students who are in need of academic intervention and additional support.

### Social Engagements

With a goal of engaging 50 percent of the males enrolled on campus in an activity or event, this goal was met in 2010 and, the following year, in 2011, the goal was exceeded with 75 percent engagement.

### Photo Depictions

- ViP's (Volunteers in Public Schools) Reading Day – This annual city-wide public school reading day is the perfect vehicle for the young men to showcase their volunteerism and promote literacy.
- Graduation – Graduation day is the ultimate goal! BMI member Chinelo Bivens was the valedictorian of his 2011 class and was a great example of leadership on- and off-campus.
- Dinner In The Dark– Designed to bring awareness to the plight of the blind and vision impaired, BMI hosted community guests in this one-of-a-kind experience of dining in total darkness.
- Platinum By Design Finale Dinner—BMI members saluted the ladies of PSC's Platinum By Design by serving as their waiters and by the dinner's end, offered a good deed!



**CONNECT with this initiative!**

Contact the President's office at (501) 370-5382 to learn about ways to support this important work or email [mhutchinson@philander.edu](mailto:mhutchinson@philander.edu).

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