

## Brother 2 Brother program builds strong and active leaders at MCC

By Nathan Mair

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MANCHESTER — Brother 2 Brother is a program designed to support the academic and developmental growth of African American and Latino males at Manchester Community College. The program was launched in the 2008 fall semester at the request of minority students and staff.

Kendrick Roundtree, one of the founders and coordinators, said that Latino and black male students, many of whom came from inner city schools and weren't prepared for college work, needed more support. So he and the dean of student affairs, G. Duncan Harris, and Robert Turner put together the program to address some of the issues that Latino and black students may face.

Roundtree, who didn't have that support throughout school, said, "The purpose of this program is to create a new mindset for these students and help navigate them away from the negative stereotypes, to become strong, active leaders."

Brother 2 Brother provides various support services and programs including access to staff mentors on campus, regularly scheduled group check ins, and one-on-one sessions with the program coordinators. There also is a boot camp held right before the fall semester starts in August that teaches students academic discipline.

"One thing that I like about this program is the fact that we always have someone with positive advice to go to," says student Julio Ramirez. "There is no one in this program that tells you 'you can't,'" adds Ramirez.

Those interested in joining Brother 2 Brother are welcome to come to meetings held every other Tuesday at noon.

For details contact Robert C. Turner at 860-3328 or Kendrick Roundtree at 860-512-3327.

The following students are Brother 2 Brother Scholars: Jarrett Barrows, East Hartford; Johnathan Colon, Manchester; Victor Flores, Manchester; Phillip Francis, Hartford; Shamari Hunt, Manchester; Howell Mullings, East Hartford; Alexander Nieves, Windsor; Will Ramos, Glastonbury; Hakeem Rashid, East Hartford; Angel Rivera, Hartford; Joshua Roger, East Hartford; and Anthony Sagay, Bloomfield.

