



Developing Tomorrow's Professionals

The Norwalk Board of Education is proud to spotlight Brien McMahon senior Sharod Blackwell for his determination and perseverance in completing the rigorous Developing Tomorrow's Professionals program. We are also pleased to honor Brien McMahon High School Housemaster Qadir Abdus-Salaam for his tireless commitment to the program and to the young men who participate.

The purpose of the DTP program is to create, improve and sustain a young man's approach to academic achievement, character development, leadership, fatherhood, college matriculation and career potential. The program is specifically designed for Black and Hispanic male students, grades 9 to 11, and young men in adult education.

Those participating in the program are required to attend ten consecutive academic Saturdays from May through July at Southern Connecticut State University. Business attire is required. Four hours of instruction are included during this carefully crafted, highly demanding program. Academic Saturdays include a combination of skill set development, discourse, rigorous writing, and college lectures. Topics include etiquette, fatherhood and leadership, transition from high school to college, note taking, college writing and task and time management.

The program encourages young men to embrace the "DTP Eight Principles of a Man," focusing on faith, love, honor, discernment, being a leader, commitment, dignity of work, and victory.

It's not unusual for a student to begin this rigorous program, but not finish all that is required. This year, under the guidance of Mr. Abdus-Salaam, Sharod successfully completed the program. The Connecticut Department of Education and other state officials recognized Sharod at a breakfast in North Haven, along with other DTP graduates from throughout the state.

The Board of Education is pleased to honor both Sharod Blackwell and Mr. Abdus-Salaam. Your hard work and dedication are an inspiration. Sharod, as you move forward and explore opportunities, we know that your appreciation of the DTP principles will remain an important part of any future endeavors you choose to pursue. Congratulations!