



Be the CHANGE

Summer 2015

Executive Summary

The findings of several studies have shown Wisconsin to be one of the most difficult places to for black and brown boys to thrive. Milwaukee is home to the largest population of those young men. Leaders in this community have a moral obligation to support these young men as they navigate through the education system and a society that does not always value them. Be the Change (BTC) is designed to be that support.



Theory of Change



It is our belief that young men of color who have experienced academic and social struggles, with the proper support system and guidance, will see the potential that exists within them, understand the obstacles they face and make an active decision to change their behavior and life trajectory. BTC is designed to guide them through the process.

Program History

Be The Change (BTC) was developed as a cross sector response led by The City of Milwaukee, Running Rebels and the Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative in partnership with Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) to address the formidable challenges that many young males of color face as they navigate social and academic challenges during adolescence.



Program Structure

BTC was administered by Universal Companies (UC), MPS and the Center for Youth Engagement (CYE) for the summer of 2015. MPS teachers facilitated either math or English credit recovery or Alfred Tatum's ID curriculum for the first half of the day. Mentors from UC led the cultural leadership development portion adapted from the Brotherhood/Sister Sol curriculum for the second half of the day.



Impact

- All 24 scholars who completed received a quarter elective credit
- 13 out of 17 scholars enrolled in credit recovery received a passing grade
- Based on matched surveys there was attitudinal improvement in the areas of “confidently sharing thoughts” and “I can change my surroundings”
- 70% of scholars increased their GPA in the first semester of the 2015-16 academic year



Testimonies

- “My experience with BTC was unmatched by any educational experience I’ve encountered. The positive relationships that were established through dialogue about life skills and self-awareness were amazing. It was evident from the response of the young men that this type of program is the missing ingredient in public education for our young black boys to be equipped for success.”

- **Reggie Riley**, Chapter Leader



Keys to Success

- Sustain engagement throughout academic year
- Build support capacity within schools
- Connect scholars to community events
- Improve Evaluation



Thank you

