



For Immediate Release

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Saint Augustine's College challenges male students to 'Man Up'

Black men are rising to new levels of success in every field. And for the first time, a black man is making a serious run for the White House in this year's presidential election.

At the same time, the numbers are grim for black males. According to statistics released by the National Urban League, black men are twice as likely to be unemployed as white males; they are seven times more likely to be incarcerated; those between the ages of 15 and 34 are nine times more likely to die of homicide; and nearly seven times as likely to suffer from AIDS.

Saint Augustine's College President Dr. Dianne Boardley Suber developed the African-American Male Initiative, which hosted its first program, Man Up, Monday, April 28. The program is designed to encourage young men at the College to make positive choices and disprove what mainstream society says about them.

"We feel that you are, in fact, our future, and we want you to benefit from this world in a way you can't imagine," Suber told students Monday. "There is a path out there that will put you on top of the world."

The event's two speakers were Eddie L. Armstrong III and James D. Williams. Armstrong is a principle partner of Armstrong & Davis Consulting Inc. and was recently honored by the Arkansas Business Journal as one of Arkansas' Top 40 Under 40 Business Executives. Williams is a criminal defense attorney and teaches sports law and trial practice at North Carolina Central University. Williams was one of the attorneys who represented NFL star Mike Vick in his dog-fighting trial.

Both men talked frankly with students about the importance of character in their future success. Poor character can keep a person from achieving the goals they've strived to reach, the men said.

"No matter how good or talented you are, it may not be enough to sustain you in the future," Armstrong said.

The African-American Male Initiative is an on-going effort to mentor and motivate young men on campus.

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