



Young Man with a Plan Newsletter

February 1, 2023

"I appreciate having Black role models like you in my son's life."

Executive Director Dr. Jaykyri Simpson's doctoral research ("Persistence Factors in Black Male College Graduates") identifies **family** as the most important factor in college students' persistence. One study participant stated, "My mother believed in me. Her belief helped me believe in myself." The power and potential of family support grounds YMWAP in our efforts to engage with families regarding the growth and development of their young men.

While we are always available to talk one: one with parents, in 2023 we will host families two times during the school year -- in the winter and at the end of the spring term. During the week of January 24th, we engaged with families both in person and by Zoom. Family members met YMWAP staff, saw a brief presentation on YMWAP history, activities, and goals, discussed post high school options, and asked questions.



"I was so happy to put the faces to the names. You men are phenomenal and a Blessing to these black youth!! I applaud and am grateful for your hard work!!!"
- YMWAP parent

YMWAP Assistant Director Lenward Gatison II, who launched YMWAP's family engagement initiative, said, "It was great to extend our outreach directly to families in support of our young men. We look forward to hosting this event annually because of the critical importance families persistently play in helping young men become the best versions of themselves. It is mutually beneficial for YMWAP to get to know families and we're glad to hear them express the positive impact that we have on their young men."

"I can only do so much as a grandma. Boston needs more of this. Thank you!"
-YMWAP grandparent

Thank you for your support. Please reach out with any questions.

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