

Future leaders: 16 Hornets to attend Men's Leadership Summit

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What does it take to be a leader? Sixteen SUNY Broome students will find out this weekend when they attend the sixth annual Men's Leadership Summit in downtown Binghamton.

The brainchild of [The College Doctor](#) President Dr. James Pogue, the event aims to promote and empower young men by providing them with the skills and knowledge for academic success.

This year's presenters include:

- Claude Oliver, a former associate software engineering manager for Lockheed Martin
- Jason Andrews, superintendent of the Windsor Central School District
- John Lopez, administrator at the Lincoln Medical Center in the Bronx
- Erik Jensen, a SUNY Broome graduate who is director of Community Partnerships at WSKG
- Julius Johnson, a nurse practitioner in the New York City area
- Parris L. Carter, Executive Director for Student Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville
- SUNY Broome Professor Scott Corley
- Emmanuel Mercedes, the supervising psychologist at Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center

SUNY Broome will have a total of 18 people at the Summit, including Corley and Claudia Clarke, director of the Educational Opportunity Program.

Among them will be Elijah Joseph, Donte Lewis and Jessie Williams, all EOP students who learned about the Summit through Clarke.

The Hornets will have a chance to speak to high school students on the realities of college life, noted Jessie, a psychology major who graduated from Johnson City High School. He said he appreciated the opportunity to mentor students on their academic futures.

"College life isn't how you see it on TV. It's not 'party every day,'" said Jessie, who is interested in a future career as a therapist or teacher.

The first in his family to attend college, first-year student Elijah has come to appreciate the help he's received through EOP and other programs. The Westchester County resident expected to receive a broad overview on what it takes to be successful at the Summit, and put it into practice.

A Communications and Media Arts major with dreams of working in broadcast journalism, he also hopes to inspire others to overcome their obstacles, he said.

Donte Lewis, a second-year Communications and Media Arts major from Harlem, already has some leadership experience: he's on the board of directors for a nonprofit, [Young Faces Smiling](#), that promotes academic achievement. He was interested in the Summit's premise as a place where men can talk about what it means to be successful.

And he has his own advice for the students of tomorrow: branch out, but dedicate your focus to your own achievement and not what others are doing. Don't be led astray by the crowd.

"Focus on the school mentality," he advised. "Don't worry about video games and other distractions."

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