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**Commissioner Bradshaw Allocates \$40,000 to R.I.S.E. UP,
a DeKalb County Human Services Youth Program**

DECATUR, Ga.—DeKalb County Commissioner Steve Bradshaw allocates a third round of funding in the amount of \$40,000 to R.I.S.E. UP, a Young Men’s Leadership Development Program. Commissioner Bradshaw’s allocation will target District 4 middle and high school boys. R.I.S.E. UP is a derivative of President Barack Obama’s My Brother’s Keeper Program.

“The Human Services Department, through its Office of Youth Services, facilitates the R.I.S.E. UP program, which is the premier county program for providing life skills to male youth in a positive way,” said Commissioner Bradshaw.

Through Commissioner Bradshaw’s allocations, the R.I.S.E. UP program has expanded to include high school students and now has Morehouse College as a partner.

“A program like R.I.S.E. UP is much needed in our community at this time,” said Damon Scott, director of DeKalb Human Services. “I’m thankful to the county’s administration, Board of Commissioners and the leadership of Jashawn Williams and the Office of Youth Services to continue to make R.I.S.E. UP excel.”

Since October 2019, Commissioner Bradshaw has allocated \$95,000 to R.I.S.E. UP, which has graduated more than 100 youth from its program.

“I am committed to doing what I can to enhance the experiences and opportunities of young boys of color in a positive way,” Commissioner Bradshaw said. “R.I.S.E. UP has exceeded my expectations and the allocations that I have made to the program solidify my sentiment.”

DeKalb County's R.I.S.E. UP Leadership Development Program was initially designed to serve middle school boys and young men of color residing in DeKalb County's District 4. R.I.S.E. UP added a high school cohort of 15 mentees this programming year.

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Dr. Kennis Gosha has been the lead facilitator for the last three years and has incorporated 13 Morehouse student mentors into the program. Over the years, the R.I.S.E. Up program has engaged boys and young men of color in S.T.E.M. to foster leadership and positive identity development for young boys.

“The R.I.S.E. UP Program is an amazing program to persuade, guide and push our young boys to be the best they can be to be successful in this world,” said Jacobie Hollis, a parent of a R.I.S.E. UP participant. “We often think of our boys' success as something internal to some individuals—their innate drive, grit, or brilliance. But this program shows that the connection between the students and other successful college men is vital. The confidence and motivation to persist come from high-quality peer relationships within an academic environment, especially with mentors who share a common identity. I'm so appreciative of this R.I.S.E. Up program. ”

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