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FOUNDATION FOR METROWEST

Babson's Recesspreneurs Teaches Entrepreneurship to Disadvantaged Youth in MetroWest

Wellesley, MA - According to Babson College President, Len Schlesinger, ordinary students can do extraordinary things when exposed to entrepreneurship. This was seen firsthand on Thursday, May 2, at Babson College when students from the Barton Road public housing community in Wellesley presented what they had learned from participating in the Recesspreneurs program founded by Babson student Daquan Oliver.

Funded by Babson College and a grant from the Fund for Wellesley, an endowed Fund of Foundation for MetroWest, Oliver founded Recesspreneurs in 2011 with the idea that empowering at-risk youth through entrepreneurship can teach students to create opportunities for themselves and others and to take advantages of future opportunities throughout their life.

The young Recesspreneurs ranging from ages eight to fifteen had created two businesses: UNI and Difference. Megan Shinnick from UNI started off the night by saying that one in five youth are bullied. She continued explaining, "You would think that with those odds, only one of the five of us standing here in front of you has been bullied. Unfortunately, we have all been bullied."

Despite the odds being against them, these students have all begun to see success at a young age. UNI, named after the Latin root of one, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the prevention of bullying. The second group, Difference, created an apparel company that utilizes the uniqueness of a barcode to exemplify the importance of accepting and appreciating the differences in everyone.

Dennis Hanno, Dean of the F.W. Olin Graduate School and Vice Provost, described the dramatic change he has already seen in the students way of thinking. "Recesspreneurs has taught these students to think differently about their life and what they can do with it moving forward."

Oliver ended the night by saying, "I hope that tonight you take away something from these extraordinary students, because I do everyday."

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