

# Spriggs and others helped by 3MG

By MAQUISHA RAYNOR  
Staff Writer

At a time when Michael Spriggs felt that making an income was more important than continuing his education, a big brother came through for him and introduced him to the program that would help mold him into the higher achiever he is today.

This program is the Male Involvement program that is designed to give hope to African American males who have low test scores and feel as if they can't make it through school.

Michael Spriggs has been actively involved with this program for three years and serves as its president.

He said that since he has been involved with this program, he has been "more focused in school and committed to his education."

Michael has successfully finished the auto body program at Wayne Community College and is currently finishing a degree in business administration.

He plans to graduate from Wayne in the spring.

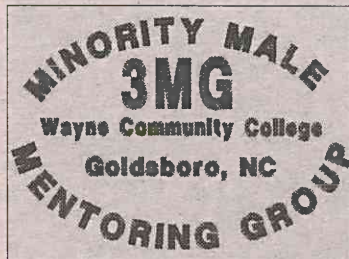
His goals after graduating are to continue running his father's auto body repair shop and "take it to another level."

Among what the program offers is community involvement.

This helps "students realize that even with their down falls and their positions in life, they can still help others," Michael said.

Through the program, Michael has realized that getting a higher level of education is the key to financial stability.

Wayne Community College



started the first phase of minority male mentoring in 1996, according to Ray Burrell, one of the program directors.

The program was originally known as AMCS (African American Males Committed to Success).

In 2004 it received multiple grants that allowed the group to broaden its scope and expand to include all minority males at Wayne Community College. At that time, the name was changed to The Minority Male Mentoring Group or 3MG.

Over the past three years it has been estimated that more than 75 minority males have participated in the mentoring program.

Among 3MG's recent activities has been partnering with the Multi-Cultural Association for Enrichment to collect and package more than 150 pairs of shoes to donate to Samaritan's Feet, a non-profit organization with a mission to provide shoes for the impoverished in Africa.

3MG also assisted the City of Goldsboro with the annual Dr. Martin Luther King birthday celebration.

Mentors/advisors are involved with 3MG participants on a regular basis and they assist, guide and direct these young men through educational aspects as well as with the personal

aspects of life.

The college's goals for this group are to foster an environment where minority males can achieve their academic goals and become positive role models in society.

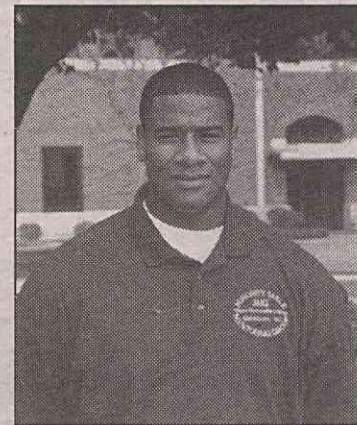
The ultimate goal of the minority male mentoring initiative is to improve minority male retention and graduation success rates, Mr. Burrell said.

The program provides monthly

workshops on topics relating to health, career planning, time management, study skills, decision making and other topics of interest.

In addition, it offers one-on-one mentoring through campus and community volunteers, leadership development, and opportunities for volunteerism.

Its mission is to turn out success stories ... just like Michael Spriggs.



Michael Spriggs

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