

On Thursday, April 29 and Friday, April 30, 2021, the New York State Education Department will host the [2021 New York State My Brother's Keeper \(MBK\) Virtual Symposium](#). Hundreds of students, parents, educational leaders, and citizens from across New York State will virtually gather for a two-day symposium on the MBK initiative to help young men of color - and all students - realize their full potential.

Board of Regents Chancellor Lester W. Young, Jr. and State Education Commissioner Betty A. Rosa will speak as part of each day's Welcome Session. Keynote addresses will be delivered each day by nationally respected speakers.

NYS MBK would not be possible without support from our dedicated legislators. We are honored to once again welcome Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, who will both address attendees. Additionally, Education Committee Chairs Senator Shelley B. Mayer and Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, and Assemblywoman Michaelle C. Solages, Chair of The New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus, are expected to attend.

We are pleased to have Geoffrey Canada, one of the most sought-after speakers in the country on the subject of education, as our keynote speaker on Thursday, as well as former heavyweight champion-turned actor, Michael Bentt, on Friday. Lastly, we are extremely fortunate to have some of the most prominent and respected names in education and youth development in attendance. In fact, there are too many to list! They will add significant value and insights to best equip participants to meet the needs of our diverse student body in New York State. This event will also include national experts in the field of human and child development, who have expertise in drawing out the full potential of boys and young men of color.

Excitingly, in addition to providing resources, and motivating and inspiring participants, we will induct our fourth cohort of MBK Fellows during the Thursday session.

For your convenience, a webcast will be available on [NYSED.gov](https://www.nysed.gov) from 10:00 am-1:30 pm on both days. We encourage you to watch live if you have not already registered. We will be posting live updates from the symposium on Twitter and Facebook. If you post on social media while attending the event, please tag us using these tags:

#### Tag Us

**NY SMBK Twitter:** @NYSMBK  
**NYSED Twitter:** @NYSEDNews  
**Facebook:** NYStateEd

#### Hashtag

#NYSMBK

We are very excited about this event! If you did not register for the event, we hope you take the opportunity to participate via webcast and hear from MBK programs across New York State as they share their successes, challenges, and strategies.

[Subscribe to this newsletter](#) and follow us on social media to learn how to become involved in NYS MBK in your community.

Thank you for your interest in MBK!

Sincerely,

The New York State My Brother's Keeper Team