

Big Brothers Big Sisters Board Report October 2022

Participants:

- # of School Based Matches – 0 but will be 75 before too long
- # of Community Based Matches -57. Waiting List - 47
- # of Work Place Mentoring Matches - 0 (COVID pause)

Program Highlights:

- Now that we have a school based mentor manager on board (Carla Aquino), we have been in the schools recruiting bigs and littles. We anticipate our programs to be up and running within a few weeks.
- We had over 45 bigs and littles come to our Fall Ball at Flamingo Lanes on Oct. 21st. Some pretty impressive bowling skills were on display and everyone had their fill of snacks and refreshments.
- Congrats to big Lou Therrien for being recognized by the Syracuse Crunch at their home opener for the dedication and commitment that he has put into our BBBS program.
- Congrats to big Savion Pollard who was recognized by President Biden on being the very first Syracuse hire to the new Micron project coming to CNY.
- BBBS staff and Westhill High School National Honor Society students distributed candy and snacks to over 600 kids at OCC's Trick or Trunk event on Oct 30th.

Upcoming Events:

Advisory Council Mtg/Dinner...Monday Nov 14th at 5:30

Movie Night...Sat. Nov 19th...6:00 pm at Sumner

Success Story:

Meet Savion Pollard: Micron's first Central New York hire

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Savion Pollard speaks to a fellow attendee at a Micron event hosting President Joe Biden at Onondaga Community College on Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022. (N. Scott Trimble | Strimble@syracuse.com)

- [Anne Hayes | ahayes@syracuse.com](mailto:ahayes@syracuse.com)
Syracuse, N.Y. — Syracuse University Vice Chancellor Michael Haynie wanted to impress visiting top Micron executives recently with the stories of talented military veterans attending the university that they could someday hire.

He told them about Savion Pollard, a 30-year-old student who worked as an engineer on Navy nuclear submarines. He is now studying electrical engineering. In his spare time, he is a big brother to a boy through a Syracuse organization.

Haynie, founder of SU's D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families, thought that meeting -- with other local leaders -- was just a chance to grab the attention of the Micron executives. But when they asked to see Pollard's resume, he proudly obliged.

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Pollard is now Micron's first hire for their massive computer chip complex that is set to be built in Clay. Micron has committed to invest \$100 billion over 20 years in the project that would eventually employ 9,000 people at its factories and create another 40,000 jobs in Onondaga County.

Pollard and hundreds of other people gathered at Onondaga Community College Thursday to celebrate the historic deal with top Micron officials and [President Joe Biden](#). Pollard was [honored](#) by a Micron executive as the first of thousands of hires to come.

Pollard, who currently lives with his wife Enesa in Camillus, is in his second year at Syracuse University. He brought his "little brother" and the boy's twin to meet the president Thursday.



Savion Pollard's little brother Kenorie and his twin Kenare take a selfie with President Joe Biden at the Micron event at OCC on Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022. Pollard, a veteran and Syracuse University student, is Micron's first local hire. Provided by Savion Pollard

Pollard and Haynie already had a strong relationship before the SU administrator brought his name up to Micron. The two had met earlier in the veteran student lounge at SU and Pollard reached out to him to continue to foster their relationship, Haynie said.

Haynie told Pollard he wanted to see his resume but didn't mention what it was for. Before he knew it, Pollard was contacted by Micron's senior recruiter in North America.

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When Haynie and Pollard ran into each other at SU's football game against North Carolina State, Pollard shared the good news that they offered him a paid intern position as an electrical engineer, Haynie said. During his time in the Navy, Pollard's work as an engineer on nuclear submarines gave him years of experience with skills Micron says it needs in its new workforce.

Pollard also represents the type of candidate Micron has vowed to hire for their massive endeavor. They plan to hire more than 1,500 military veterans by working with the D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families at SU.

Pollard grew up in the Richmond Hill neighborhood in Queens. For much of his life, he said he felt like a "small fish in a big pond."

When he was in high school, Pollard said he actually dreamed of studying in the SU Architecture program but ended up studying accounting at CUNY City College.

He reached his junior year but still couldn't shake the feeling that he wanted to do something bigger with his life.

"I had no real work experience and nothing up to that point in my life had really made me stand out from any of the other 8.3 million people residing in the city at the time," Pollard said. "I wanted a change, I wanted to feel like I was doing something with my life and contributing to the world positively."

His father suggested he join the Navy and Pollard never looked back.

Once he enlisted Pollard said he was encouraged to be a nuclear engineer after he scored highly on a standardized placement test.

He trained in South Carolina for two years and then moved to Upstate New York for his first stint as a Navy engineer. He spent two years there before heading to Virginia to work on submarines.

Pollard left the Navy in 2021. He considers his time in the military to be one of the best things to happen in his life.

"I think it really changed the trajectory that I was on," Pollard said.

When he decided he wanted to return to school, Pollard was attracted to SU because of the programs in place for veterans.

He was incredibly grateful for the opportunity to study again and he said being a student has given him time to give back to the community he was now part of.

One way he did this was by becoming a big brother through PEACE Inc.'s Big Brothers Big Sisters program in Syracuse.

Pollard said he had a very happy childhood and was extremely fortunate to come from a family with two loving parents and an older sister.

"I realize now that many kids are not as fortunate as I was," Pollard said. "Many grow up in broken households with no model of what is possible for their life. I want to be that model."

Latasha Wilson, a senior community-based mentor manager for the PEACE program, said Pollard was a much-needed addition to the program. Currently, there is a large shortage of men applying to be big brothers and a long waiting list of kids looking for mentors.

Pollard became the "big brother" to a fourth-grader from Baldwinsville named Kenorie. Wilson said that in just four months of mentoring Pollard has been an outstanding role model and has requested to take on Kenorie's twin brother Kenare as a second "little brother." Kenare has a mentor of his own but as a student Pollard has more time, she said.

Wilson said it is unusual for mentors to be approved to take another mentee before they have been with the program for more than six months but they may make an exception for Pollard.

There is also a shortage of people of color applying to be mentors for PEACE's program. Pollard is working to recruit people and help get mentors for the boys who have been waiting for one, Wilson said.

Even though he is currently only the mentor for one of the brothers, Pollard asked Wilson if he could bring both brothers to meet the president at OCC. She happily agreed.

Both brothers got the opportunity to take a selfie and speak to the president. Pollard said he did not even have a chance to snap a photo with Biden but he was so excited the boys got the opportunity.

Biden approached Pollard, shook his hand and said he owed the boys some ice cream for being so well-behaved.



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Savion Pollard's little brother Kenorie and his twin Kenare speak to President Joe Biden at the Micron event at OCC on Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022. Pollard is Micron's first local hire. Provided by Savion Pollard

Pollard and Wilson both pointed out how important it is for Black kids to see people that look like them being successful and being celebrated by the president.

Pollard said he sees his opportunity with Micron and his role as a big brother as hope.