

## Hartford's First Black History Bee

By Michelle R. McFarland

History was made on Saturday February 27, 2016 at the Hartford Public Library. Local students from Milner School, Fred D. Wish School, Clarke Elementary and Martin Luther King schools competed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Black History Bee.



The schools were adopted by the organization “Calling All Brother’s”, which is comprised of many men with diverse backgrounds who live and work in the city of Hartford.

The “Brother’s were inspired by chronic disenfranchisement of Black and Latino men not only in Hartford but other cities nationwide.

Former Fire Chief Robert Dobson provided the information packets that the students would use to study for the contest. A couple of the topics included, Pop Culture, Business and Industry, and Africa The Source.

This event proved that community support is vital to creating learning experiences of this magnitude. It also demonstrates the impact of positive men in the community. Building the self-esteem of young men will encourage them to perceive learning as a “cool” thing to be proud of.

This event provided a great opportunity to prove that boys love to learn, have the ability to compete, retain information and support each other as a group effort.

The contest was hosted by Leslie Mays of WVIT Channel 30 and was in the televised format of Jeopardy.

After an hour of answering questions from multiple categories’ Milner school decided to wager their points and ultimately walked away with the 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy.

Calling All Brother’s has made their mark by showing up consistently, challenging and changing the narrative for young men in the City of Hartford. Video of the event is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brTZH-7rtec>