

# THE BOSS™ REPORT

*Business of Student Success*



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## BOSS™ Program Updates

*By Daniel Mitchell*

“Success in life is about overcoming storms. You are either in a storm, just left a storm, or on the way to the storm. In life, it is not what happens to you that determines your future, it is **what you do about it.**” -Dr. Marvin Bishop

Although the world is in the midst of a storm right now, we've turned a crisis into an opportunity and are using virtual platforms to continue to deliver high quality support to the young men and families we serve. As the world and economy grind to a halt, BOSS grows stronger! We've made some changes- our acronym now stands for Business of Student Success, signifying an expansion to all students who wish to move from wherever they are (poor, fair, good) to great. We've also debuted a new logo, featuring one of our student-athletes (Makiah Williams, St. Anthony's) in a prominent position. We feel that these changes will be instrumental in taking the organization to the next level, allowing us to share the gift of holistic growth to as many families as possible in the coming weeks, months, and years. It is truly an exciting time, and we would like to thank you all for your consistency, activity, and support.



Our BOSS meeting on July 25th was highlighted by a riveting talk led by Adam Harper, Senior Director of the Jr NBA. A retired pro basketball player holding both a J.D. and an M.B.A, Mr. Harper was able to reinforce in the boys the philosophies and principles that are part and parcel of our BOSS Pillars, including the true definition of professionalism, the many different behind the scene career opportunities in sports, the power (and potential dangers) of social media, along with other gems that reinforce the benefits of work ethic, networking, and preparation for opportunities.

## BOSS™ Virtual Camp 2020

by *Daniel Mitchell*

This year's BOSS Camp was a roaring success, despite inherent challenges with transitioning to a completely online format. Even with the young men of BOSS consistently on Zoom, we were still able to stay in physical and mental shape. Each day started with Jump Start, an hour of non-sport specific workouts. Jump Start was followed by an installment of our Good to Great series led by Dr. Marvin Bishop. These talks were followed by scheduled times for online math, reading, and interactive robotics lessons, courtesy of South LA Robotics.

In total, the boys read a combined 4,800 minutes in the 10 days of camp and read 419 books. In addition to this, the boys spent 149.1 hrs. combined on math, completing 571 lessons, and progressing in 103 standards as a group.



London McCall (first from the top) and Jason Tillman exemplified all BOSS qualities during the camp, winning Camp MVP (McCall) and Most Improved (Tillman).



## MIT Global Hackathon Results

By Daniel Mitchell

The young men of BOSS truly showcased their skills during the MIT App Inventor Global Hackathon for Good. The purpose of this hackathon was to democratize app development for a variety of groups while developing innovative solutions for the complex problems of today. Our students, under the tutelage of Cisco and Oracle software engineers, developed Safe Encounter™, an app inspired in the wake of the George Floyd slaying. Safe Encounter™ was designed to help people feel calm, more in control, and safe during an encounter with law enforcement. Thanks to the support of the extended BOSS Family, along with voters from around the world, our BOSS Coders won the People's Choice Award! Because of our success, along with the zeal that our students showed throughout app development, we will be establishing a formal team of BOSS Coders to support the more formal expansion of their coding and robotics skills, areas that are often seen as "unattainable". Our students continue to break through these barriers and blaze their own trails, as true bosses do.

### How Does **Safe Encounter** Work?



## A WORD FROM MR. GLENN



With the return to school upon us, virtually, in person and/or some combination of virtual and in-person, we're creating our own virtual space where our boys can check in with each other, receive help with homework and projects and otherwise stay connected to each other and to BOSS during these challenging times. Stay tuned for a formal unveiling of our BOSS™ Room. We'd also like to welcome/introduce the newest member of the BOSS family, consultant/grant writer Marsha M. Miles, MBA. Marsha's skills will undoubtedly help take BOSS™ to the next level.