After a rigorous screening process in Winter 2010, nine students from the Crenshaw High Business Management and Entrepreneurship Academy were accepted into the pilot NASP SoCal F.A.S.T. Track program, and were matched up with nine mentors from the financial services industry.

How proud we all were to witness the transformation that took place in the lives of these nine precocious pioneers as the program’s Spring 2011 sessions commenced. The increased self confidence that a sense of belonging brings happened in concert with the monthly meetings hosted in Los Angeles’ elite business center, Century City.

It was in the Century City conference rooms of Ares Management LLC, Goldman Sachs & Co, Inc., and Artio Global Investors where senior executives shared words of wisdom and challenged students to engage in thought provoking question and answer exchanges. Additionally, regular phone calls with their NASP mentors encouraged students to develop their financial acumen by reading the Wall Street Journal, and simultaneously develop their personal leadership development plan while reading and discussing Success Principles for Teens, by Jack Canfield and Kent Healy.

This journey has been special in so many ways; most notably we achieved one of the key goals of the pilot program, to provide access and exposure to the upper echelon of the business community and world class business professionals.

With the support of Maynard Brown, Director of Crenshaw’s Business Academy, Sherman Perryman, Business Academy Teacher, NASP SoCal mentors, corporate sponsors, and community leaders, the Crenshaw High students in the NASP SoCal F.A.S.T. Track program truly enjoyed a life changing experience and we are eagerly looking forward to expanding our partnership in the Fall of 2011. These nine students from the pilot program will be instrumental in this expansion and will be leaders and ambassadors for future programs.
**Student Reflections**

**Tyris Williams**
“Everything is right here...I really can be here. It’s not a dream anymore, it’s a reality...It’s just up to me to go out there and get it.”

**Samantha Brown**
“I think this program was very good for me and my future...I believe that with the help of the team [mentors], I will be excellent in business...”

**Tori Martin**
“I want to be a mentor for the generation that’s coming up and a great role model to them because the knowledge you guys have given me I want to give back...”

**Dejon Martinez**
“The book that we are reading has broadened my horizons and made me think about different ways that I can make myself better...I am more of a presenter and not afraid of talking to a crowd...”

**Marnelle Mascardo**
“This has been one of the greatest privileges...It taught me how to look into myself and take responsibility if I want to make a change...”

**Christopher Banks**
“I learned about the many different fields of business there are. A person should always do what they feel is right and always follow your dreams...”

**Briana McFashion**
“I never really had a mentor or someone to really admire and look up to...I know that this program has helped me and changed me but only time will tell how greatly I have been impacted.”

**Kerbe Kelbisow**
“I am happy to say that it [F.A.S.T. Track] has made a major impact of how I view life. Where there are obstacles comes opportunity...”

**Rashanda Stuart**
“I learned more about myself in three months than I’ve known in my 16 years of life and its all because of this wonderful support system created...I will never give up...”

F.A.S.T. Track SoCal was launched in December 2010. For more information please contact the program director, Ramsey Jay, Jr. at adminramseyjay@gmail.com
Executive Speaker Series

Provided students the opportunity to engage with senior executives at stalwart financial institutions such as Ares Management LLC, Artio Global Investors, and Goldman Sachs & Co., Inc. Students were inspired by senior leaders of the region’s largest public plan sponsor, the LA County Employees’ Retirement Association.

F.A.S.T. Track Program Requirements

Students must be in good academic standing; have an interest in the Business and Entrepreneurship Academy; be involved in extra curricular activities. Students are typically juniors.

Acceptance is determined once students execute the parental consent agreement and complete the F.A.S.T. Track application.

Once admitted, students are required to attend all F.A.S.T. Track sessions; complete required assignments; maintain a reflective journal.

***Upon Completion of the program, students are eligible for college scholarship funding***

2011 F.A.S.T Track Mentors

Lemuel Daniels, Deutsche Bank; Deb Draughn, The Process Management Group; Scott McConnell, Ares Management LLC; Tracy Monroe, Trust Company of the West; Madelyn Murray, BNY Mellon; Stephanie Ivy, Goldman Sachs & Co, Inc.; Gene Rice; Norice Rice, The Yucaipa Companies; Tanya Victor, Broadway Federal Bank; Nicole Williams, LA Mayor’s Office of Economic & Business Policy

A Message From the Director, Ramsey Jay, Jr.

As a part of our journey together we are so honored to have supported Crenshaw High students in achieving their “First of Many Firsts” after participating in the F.A.S.T. Track Program.

“First of Many Firsts” by Ramsey Jay Jr, Ares Management LLC

- It was the first time many of our students ventured from their Crenshaw Community and traveled to Century City; a whole new world yet one that is only 15 miles from their high school campus;
- It was the first time our student read the Wall Street Journal and engaged in roundtable book club discussion focused on Success Principles for Teens, by Jack Canfield and Kent Healy
- It was the first time our students wore business suits and ties and sat in the finest board rooms;
- It was the first time our students were encouraged to stand and address the most senior financial executives and “state their names, state where they from, and state where they are going” with a new sense of power and confidence;
- It was the first time that our students had a mentor; and as result of the mentor/mentee program our students helped us redefine what it means be a mentor; “someone that can be counted on, someone that makes the time to speak with you, someone that shows you that they care.”
- It was the first time that our students were empowered to become mentors of their own and have implemented a program to share the lessons they have learned in the F.A.S.T. Track program with Crenshaw’s incoming freshman class; the ripple effect in motion;

As specials as these “First of Many Firsts” are; we are all motivated to insure that these truly are the “First of Many Firsts” and collectively we pledge to make these “firsts” old habits and create the pathways for new “firsts” to be realized.