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Dr. Kelvin Wymbs, Superintendent

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KENNETH GARDNER LEADERSHIP ACADEMY'S MALE SCHOLARS RECEIVE HAIRCUTS AND INSPIRATION FROM LOCAL BARBER

On January 15, 2025, the Kenneth Gardner Leadership Academy's Gentlemen's Club of Distinction invited Darien Demeritt from Truth Barbershop to share his knowledge with the young men, some of whom even received haircuts. Mr. Leshun Cooper from KGLA remarked, "This was a fantastic experience for our young male scholars. Barber Darien Demeritt came in to inspire them and showed them that there are more opportunities in life than they may believe."

Mr. Cooper explained that the initiative began with a desire to provide new ideas to motivate the young gentlemen. He was on his way to speak with Principal Hampton to ask for suggestions when Mr. Rashean Cason, who now leads the Gentlemen of Distinction 3rd Grade Club, joined him. Mr. Cason suggested they invite Darien from Truth Barbershop. Cooper reached out to Darien, who immediately agreed to participate. They arranged for Mr. Darien to visit on January 15, 2025. Upon his arrival, Mr. Darien expressed his goal: "I want to inspire these young men to follow their dreams now before it's too late. No matter what dream or vision they have for their future, they can start working on it now. Pursuing their dreams at a young age is the best thing they can do."

A total of seven scholars received haircuts, and they were both amazed and grateful for the experience. They even inquired when Mr. Cooper would bring Darien back! Initially, Mr. Cooper did not anticipate how successful this event would be. He thought it would be a one-time occurrence but has now decided to invite someone to inspire the young men every Early Release Day. He hopes this initiative will positively impact the boys at KGLA. As Mr. Cooper stated, "Yes, their education is important, but inspiring and touching their lives is equally effective!"