

Are You Your Colleague's Keeper?

Diandria Barber (GA), NEAFCS Awards Committee

Have you heard the saying – “my brother’s keeper”? In 2014, President Barack Obama launched the “My Brother’s Keeper” initiative to address opportunity gaps boys/young men of color face and to ensure all young people can reach their full potential. Or maybe you are familiar with the saying from the story of Cain and Abel in the Bible. Yep...that one...Cain kills Abel because he may or may not have been a little jealous. When pressed on Abel’s whereabouts (after...you know...he kills him), Cain responds “Am I My Brother’s Keeper?” In other words, am I responsible for the well-being of my brother/sister, and making sure they reach their full potential?



The answer...Yes! At least when it comes to applying for awards during next award’s season. You may work with individuals who are doing award worthy work but are afraid to apply for awards. It may be fear...fear of rejection, fear of the work it takes to submit an award, or fear of being laughed at. Be your colleague’s keeper...encourage them, act as a resource, support them. Help them to see their own full potential and help them dive into next award’s season with no fear. I’ll ask you again, “Are you your colleague’s keeper”?