Dr. Ky Dele/To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to experience the honor of being a “Made Man.” For this exposure I am grateful. Specifically because a platform has been established to build with so many other amazing Black Men. The idea that black male led programs network and net-weave relationships to create a new pipeline is outstanding and innovative. Major kudos and honor to Dr. Ky Dele. Since “*The Made Man*” event, Morehouse Men have rallied together all over the city to reacclimate themselves and be a part of the work in investing in the next generations of Black men. I had an opportunity to speak with Keith Warren of *100* *Black Men* and it was quite an uplift. He encouraged me to connect with others and hear what they are saying. “Make sure you’re on the same station,” he said. Collaborate, build, exchange, repeat. Soon thereafter, I had an opportunity to speak with Jack Drummond from the *Mayor’s office of Black Male Engagement*, he and I discussed teamwork and intrinsic motivation. Moreover, he echoed the concept, “Communication Skills!” These remedies were SO necessary for me because of the work I do. In my field, my personal objectives are now more clear, “Engagement + Communication/Relationship = Community Progress.”

My full time responsibility as a teacher is epic at times. However, to be honored amongst Successful Entrepreneurs, CEO’s, Executive Directors, and Executive Level Board Members of a variety of companies and organizations was breathtaking. I remember thinking ‘What did I do to deserve this?’ Then I realized (through conversation), ‘ You ARE the major factor that cultivates this plethora of careers!’ Some have commended me on the fact that I was honored because of having a non-profit (*OrganizeMyLife, Inc.*) for high school students and leading as Philadelphia Chapter President of Morehouse College National Alumni Association. While people within my community circles have highlighted what I pour into my class. I have had a class of all boys since I began to work at what is now Global Leadership Academy Southwest, once Huey Elementary. We started in 4th grade and have now matriculated to 6th grade. We are almost half-way into the year at this point and they have grown leaps and bounds compared to their performance years prior. I will forever be indebted to “The Made Man” for their work and vision. Because of this experience I hope to provide collaborative programing and scholarships for young black men from K-12.

I tell people often that I am motivated by the words of Tupac Shakur, “I’m not saying I’m gonna change the world, but I guarantee I will spark the brain that will…” When black men get together, in a setting such as the “Made Man,” the community achieves new level in social status. Not simply because of our being black men, but because of the work & product of goal-oriented black men. Everyone who came out that night showed so much love to the honorees and to one another. I believe Malik Boyd said that the one thing we don’t say enough to one another as black men or to those in our community is “I Love You.” Obviously, the power of words consumed my thinking. It was completely invigorating. From the interviews to the interactions, many great things will erupt from the time we had. Thank you again for the dais and demonstrating your respect for Black men within the community and the Community alike. We hope to continue to build with the “Made Man” and those made men.

Namaste,

Kristin Green-Hayes

Philadelphia MCNAA Chapter President