

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Aug. 20, 2026**

Contact: Terry Robinson | Director of Communications
and Public Relations | 225-367-6206 | trobenson4@ebrschools.org

Baton Rouge Magnet High student wins national 100 oratorical contest

BATON ROUGE, La. — The East Baton Rouge Parish School System is proud to announce that one of its own has won a national oratorical event.

Baton Rouge Magnet High School student Niles Haymer II won the 100 Black Men of America's inaugural Oratorical Competition in New York City with his powerful speech, "What Leadership Means To Me."

"I really felt the words of that speech," said the 16-year-old Haymer.

Using the national organization's theme, "Rooted in Mission. Strengthened by Unity. Shaping the Future," Haymer's speech challenged his Gen Z generation to embrace leadership by serving others, standing together and confidently declaring.

"Leadership isn't about being the loudest person in the room. It's about believing in what you're saying enough that people want to listen. That's what I tried to bring to this speech," Haymer said.

He credits his passion for public speaking to his being a mentee in the 100 Black Men of Metro Baton Rouge's Project Excel. The program focuses on sixth- to 12th-grade Black male students, teaching them essential life skills, improving academic outcomes and developing citizenship skills.

Haymer stresses the importance of the preparation he received from his oratory coach, Jeremy L. Blunt, an empowerment speaker with 100 Black Men.

In 2025, Haymer also represented the local organization on its African American History Challenge Team. He was named the winner of the Baton Rouge Bar Association's Law Day Essay Contest.

###