Roderick Griffin is a third year student majoring in marketing with a minor in information systems. In addition to Business Fellows, he is a member of ADVANCE, the Collegiate 100 Black Men’s Honorary, a Darwin T. Turner Scholar and serves as the president for both Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

According to Roderick, the Business Buddies program helped him realize his true passion for mentorship. Given the great opportunities afforded to him at the university, he feels a personal commitment to investing in the next generation of student leaders. When first meeting his mentee, Kameron, he recognized a number of similarities, which motivated his interest in guiding Kameron through his freshman year. From the start, a bond was created – the titles “mentor” and “mentee” began to disappear as the bond of brotherhood was formed. There have always been lines of open communication with no topics being off limits. Sometimes, they have spent all day talking, doing homework or as Roderick states, “beating Kam in videogames.”

Overall, the experience has been very rewarding. Roderick goes on to share, “that if you ask Kameron, he might say that he was learning more from me. But I learn from him also. Kameron’s ambition and drive to better himself only helped to fuel the same ambitions in me. To me, this was the key component that made our bond so great – it was always give and take. Growing up the younger of two siblings, I always wanted to know what it would be like to have a younger sibling; because of Kam, I gained not only a great friend, but a little brother as well.”

Kameron Marshall is a first year student with a double major in accounting and finance, and a minor in sports administration. He is a Darwin T. Turner Scholar and active in ADVANCE, the National Association of Black Accountants, Emerging Ethnic Leaders, and the Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society. He is treasurer of the Freshmen
Leadership Executive Committee for the United Black Student Association and a
graduate of the African American Cultural & Resource Center’s Transitions Program.

He feels fortunate to have such a great mentor in Roderick and acknowledges that
they formed a close bond immediately. They have always been motivated to go
above and beyond for the Business Buddies checkpoints, which includes connecting
several times per week. Immediately it was apparent to Kameron that Roderick was a
great source of knowledge and information. All of Roderick’s great advice has allowed
him to be a successful student-leader in his own right. He feels fortunate to have a
mentor that leads by example.

According to Kameron, “Rod has not only been the best mentor I could ask for, but he
has also evolved into a big brother and someone I can go to for anything. This
experience has really demonstrated the importance of mentorship and its true value. I
have been inspired to become a mentor in the future to assist the next generation of
student leaders. I must give credit to Rod for truly being one of the main reasons I have
had such a positive experience during my first year at the University of Cincinnati.”