**Man of Honor**

In August 2014 Ian Cohen, Ben Sperling, and Travis Salters came together to finalize a concept that was in the works for months. After noticing a need for opportunities that would positively expose students to colleges, careers and the world after high school, NGM was born. NGM, standing for Next Generation Men, was founded by 3 men from 3 different backgrounds and communities, but with 1 common goal, to equip today’s young men with the necessary experiences and support that would inspire and prepare them for life and success after their high school career ended.

***Ian Cohen- Executive Director***

After graduating from Emory with his Bachelor’s in Philosophy, Ian Cohen began his teaching career with the thought of understanding the educational system more in-depth while simultaneously having a positive effect on it. During his time as a teacher at Banneker High School, Ian established a joint after school venture with Emory University Medical School, he organized Banneker’s first Community Fair and jumpstarted the Girls and Boys Varsity Soccer programs. For all his efforts, Ian was awarded Freshman Teacher of the Year and Coach of the Year in 2013. Now as the Executive Director of NGM (Next Generation Men) he is devoting his time and energy into increasing opportunities for and support to students throughout Atlanta.

***Ben Sperling- Chief Operating Officer***

Originally from New Haven, CT, Ben Sperling’s passion for mentoring and education was sparked during his time at Emory University; so naturally, after receiving his Bachelor’s in Psychology he dove head first into teaching. As a high school math teacher at Carver School of the Arts, Ben helped to increase students’ math scores by over 130% and assisted the soccer team in achieving its’ best season in school history. It was during this time that Ben began to see the need for programs that were geared towards exposing and preparing students for opportunities and life post high school. This realization was what brought Ben to Next Generation Men with the hopes of filling this void. Not only does Ben sit as COO of NGM, but he also sits on the Board of Directors for the New Hebrew Public School in Atlanta and is on the Steering Committee for the Atlanta Chapter of the American Jewish Committee.

***Travis Salters- Co-Founder/Lead Content Creator***

Travis Salters, who grew up near Philadelphia, has always been involved in projects that were directed at impacting a variety of communities. Once he received his Bachelor’s in Journalism and African-American Studies from Penn State, Travis entered the classroom as a high school English teacher in the Atlanta area. While in his teaching career, Travis has served as both golf coach and Chairman of the Student Mentorship Program for the Black Male Leadership Association. He has dedicated his life to raising the standard of men in today’s society through empathy development, cultural exposure experiences, and intergenerational support which he has brought along with him to NGM (New Generation Men).