



MILWAUKEE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (MEP) MONTHLY REPORT

January 2016

- Meetings and conversations were held between the Milwaukee Education Partnership (MEP) Executive Director, Gerard Randall, and various individuals within and outside of the partnership regarding education legislation, grants, partnerships, various initiatives, updates, MEP administrative business and more.
- On January 5th, Mr. Randall met with leadership at Northwestern Mutual Foundation to share updates on the MEP HBCU and reading initiatives. A follow-up meeting was held on January 20th with Ms. Irissol Arce, Education Program Officer, Strategic Philanthropy & Community Relations.
- Mr. Randall met with the president and one of the trustees of the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). They discussed MEP initiatives and the desire to collaborate with MCW.
- Mr. Randall met with Mr. Dan Chanen, MPS Chief Human Capital Officer, regarding Project METRO.
- Dr. Howard Garber, President, Milwaukee Center for Independence (MCFI), and Mr. Randall met to discuss MEP neighborhood education initiatives. They also discussed MCFI urban childhood initiatives.
- Dr. John Hill, MPS Director of College & Career Readiness, and Mr. Randall met to discuss convening of leadership from the higher education institutions participating in the GEAR UP initiative.
- On January 6th Mr. Randall attended a meeting of the Pastors United group. There were various topics discussed. Mr. Randall spoke about MEP initiatives and other education initiatives supported by Pastors United.
- The State Assembly Speaker's Task Force on Urban Education held a meeting and public hearing on January 26th concerning early childhood education. Invited testimony was given by Dr. Darienne Driver, MPS Superintendent, Mr. Randall, and leadership from MKE Succeeds, United Way, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Department of Children & Families. Public testimony was also received.

- The MEP Executive Partners held their monthly meeting on January 21st. Mr. Randall shared information concerning the legislative agenda and updates on programs. Various items were discussed.
- Discussion was held with Mr. Ray Allen, the new Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Secretary, concerning how the funding identified by Governor Walker will be accessed for summer jobs for youth.
- Dr. Diana Hess, Dean, UW-Madison School of Education, and Mr. Randall met on January 22nd to discuss the opportunity to access Fast Forward funding for summer youth employment initiatives.
- Mr. Randall discussed with Dr. Alan Shoho, Dean, UWM School of Education, the Lynde & Harry Bradley Technology & Trade School summer academic remediation initiative.
- At the invitation of Dr. Rebecca Blank, Chancellor, UW-Madison, Mr. Randall joined her in her visit to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee on the tour of Pieper-Hillside Boys & Girls Club located at 611 West Cherry Street. Dr. Blank and Mr. Randall also discussed the need to expand access opportunities for Milwaukee Public Schools students to UW-Madison.
- Discussion was held between Mr. Randall and Ms. Jessica Tormey, the UW System Chief of Staff, regarding the possibility of the Partnership hosting a forum on diversity in collaboration with the UW System.
- Work has continued on the NSF Bio-science grant initiative and planning grant proposal. Further discussions have been taking place with potential participants in the initiative.
- Work has continued on the development of the HBCU (Historically Black Colleges & Universities) Initiative. The MEP and United Negro College Fund (UNCF) have begun the planning for holding a UNCF scholarship fundraising event. Information has been shared and communication has been made with past HBCU Conference participants concerning service on work groups. Planning is in process for the third MEP HBCU Conference for April 26-28, 2016.
- Work has continued on development of the Early Childhood Literacy Initiative. Meetings are being held with staff at local foundations.
- Discussion continued with Stritch staff concerning the Cardinal Stritch University Literacy Program initiative.
- Mr. Randall participated in the January 21st GE Foundation Business Leader Monthly Conference Call led by Jonathan Zaff, Executive Director of the Center for Promise—the research institute for America’s Promise Alliance. He presented their latest study, *Don’t Quit on Me: What Young People Who Left School Say about the Power of Relationships*. The report explores—from the perspectives of young people themselves—the roles that relationships with adults and peers play in their decisions about staying in, leaving and returning to high school. The four key findings the researchers derived from analysis of the study data were presented:
 1. Too many hurdles, too little help
 2. Relationships matter

3. Relationships buffer—to a point
 4. An anchor and a web of support are needed
- As part of the strategic planning process the UW System is engaged in to help shape its vision and practices for the next decade, African-American and Hispanic/Latino/a leaders were invited to a strategic planning activity meeting to help ensure careful listening of groups traditionally underrepresented. Mr. Randall participated. The tasks for this group of leaders were: 1) to examine and help rank the data that had been received in the statewide listening tour with business, industry and community leaders, and 2) to recommend anything they felt was missing from the broader data set that included data and themes to help answer what the state of Wisconsin needs to succeed and how the UW System can support that.
 - Mr. Randall attended the First Annual Jurisdiction Empowerment Luncheon. This event brought together elected officials and community leaders to discuss decreasing disparities in our community.
 - Mr. Alex Lasry, Vice President – Strategy & Operations for the Milwaukee Bucks, was given a tour by Mr. Randall of the proposed arena neighborhoods.