



MILWAUKEE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (MEP) MONTHLY REPORT

February 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.
- A meeting of the GEAR UP partners' leadership is being planned and scheduled.
- Mr. Randall met with Susan Lloyd, Executive Director, Zilber Family Foundation, to discuss the MEP Reading and HBCU initiatives.
- Representative Leon Young and Mr. Randall met near the end of February and discussed summer youth employment.
- The MEP hosted another meeting of the Head Start Operators of Milwaukee County. There is new leadership at three of the four organizations: Sarah Benton, Executive Director, Acelero Learning; Toni Rivera-Joachin, Interim Executive Director, Centro Hispano Milwaukee; Tracey Sparrow, President, Next Door. At the meeting held on February 29th, updates and information were shared by Mr. Randall with regard to Head Start and planning of an upcoming visit to Milwaukee by Dr. Linda Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary, & Inter-Departmental Liaison for Early Childhood Development, Health & Human Services – Administration for Children & Families. Head Start Operators shared updates on their Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Discussion was held concerning the challenges and opportunities faced in providing these services to pre-school children and their families in Milwaukee County. Some ideas were exchanged and next steps identified.
- Preparations are being made for a planning activity session for the MEP Executive Partners. At the request of the Executive Partners, feedback was sought from School of Education Deans and their teacher education and certification program leaders concerning the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)—its impact, challenges and opportunities for teacher education programs in the Milwaukee area. The feedback received will be assembled to help inform discussion at the planning activity session. A facilitator for this session has been identified and discussions have begun.
- Planning is in progress for the School of Education Deans and staff they identify from UW-Milwaukee, UW-Madison, UW-Parkside and Cardinal Stritch University to visit the Urban Teacher Program in the School of Education at Loyola University Chicago on March 28th.

- Work has continued on development of the NSF Bio-science grant initiative and planning grant proposal. Numerous meetings have been held with those working on this initiative locally. Information has been gathered and exchanged with Baltimore City Public Schools and a group conference call was held with them. Discussions have taken place with staff at MPS in the Academic Office, Curriculum & Instruction Office, and Grants Office.
- Work has continued on various aspects of the HBCU (Historically Black Colleges & Universities) Initiative. Individuals are being spoken to and identified to serve on each of the six work groups in both leadership and membership roles. The MEP and United Negro College Fund (UNCF) have continued planning for holding a UNCF scholarship fundraising event. Planning has continued for the third MEP HBCU Conference to be held in spring 2016. At the request of Ruth Maegli, MPS Chief Academic Officer, the MEP has made contact with staff at Lincoln University in Missouri, which had reached out to MPS with interest in presenting itself as another college opportunity for MPS students. The university's president and executive director of philanthropy are planning to participate in the HBCU Conference.
- Work has continued on development of the Early Childhood Literacy Initiative. Meetings with foundations continue to be scheduled and held.
- Discussions continued with Stritch staff and MPS staff concerning the Cardinal Stritch University Literacy Program initiative.
- Project METRO will move forward for another year. Recruitment materials and PowerPoint are being updated by the Steering Committee members from MPS.
- The monthly GE Foundation Business Leader Monthly Conference Call was held on February 18th and was led by Allen Grossman, Harvard University Senior Fellow and former Professor. He discussed Collective Impact: an innovative approach to improving public education. For the 51percent of American students impacted by poverty, the support they receive outside the classroom often determines success inside the classroom. Often, children who need support the most do not receive it. In response to this service delivery chaos, Collective Impact has emerged across America. Results are promising, with the highest poverty students improving in such core indicators as pre-school readiness, third grade reading and high school graduation. Business leaders, individual philanthropists and volunteers are playing key roles at every stage from planning to implementation. Information was shared with participants on roles they might play in helping Collective Impact transform public education in their communities. Presentation materials were received. Mr. Randall participated in the conference call.
- Listening sessions and strategic planning activities have been taking place as part of the strategic planning process the UW System is engaged in to help shape its vision and practices for the next decade. Additional conferences will be held in Milwaukee and Kenosha in mid-April 2016. Mr. Randall will be participating in the Milwaukee event.
- On February 11th Mr. Randall gave remarks at the investiture of William W. Brash III as Appellate Court Judge, District 1 of the Wisconsin Court of Appeals.