



MILWAUKEE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (MEP) MONTHLY REPORT

February 2017

- 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 and projects, updates, MEP administrative business and more.
- Mr. Randall met with Scott Neitzel, Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Administration, to discuss education and workforce development issues. Mr. Randall later provided follow-up information to Secretary Neitzel.
- Ray Allen, Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, and Mr. Randall continued to discuss workforce development initiatives including summer youth employment.
- Reggie Newson of Ascension Healthcare and Mr. Randall met concerning the health care component of the HBCU Conference.
- Mr. Randall met with Jessica Tormey, Chief of Staff at the University of Wisconsin System Administration (UWSA). Discussion was held about Governor Walker's idea to have a Governor's Summit to convene the public and private deans of the schools of education to address best practices and innovations in teacher preparation programs. The MEP is playing a key role in organizing the event.
- In follow-up to some of Mr. Randall's January meetings in Washington, DC:
 - Additional discussion took place with Brandon Renz, Chief of Staff to Congresswoman Virginia Foxx, regarding planning for a visit to Milwaukee by Congresswoman Foxx who is the Chair of the House Education and Workforce Committee.
 - Additional discussion took place with Maureen Hoyler, President, Council for Opportunity in Education, regarding future funding for TRIO and GEAR UP.
- A follow-up call was held with Kris Andrews, Associate VP for Federal & Corporate Relations at UWSA, concerning UW System support for TRIO and GEAR UP.
- Mr. Randall met with Linda Seemeyer, Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and provided her with an overview of the MEP and significant health issues faced by families with children in the Milwaukee Public Schools.

- Mr. Randall met with the School Board president and vice president to provide updates on state and federal education budgets.
- The MEP with the governmental representatives of MEP Executive Partner institutions and organizations continued to refine their approaches to advocacy for priorities in the state and federal budgets.
- Work continues with the Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) Initiative. Mr. Randall and Dr. Willie Larkin have been meeting, and he will be working with the MEP HBCU work groups. In mid-February they attended the National HBCU Presidents' Conference and spoke with attendees regarding the HBCU Initiative and shared the schedule of the MEP HBCU Conference activities with potential attendees.
- Planning for the fourth annual MEP HBCU Conference continues involving staff and/or members of the MEP, MPS, MMABSE, HBCU Alumni United, and a few other volunteers. It will be held April 24-26, 2017 at the InterContinental Milwaukee. Community invitations will be sent out for the "Enhancing the Pipeline" Panel Discussion at 8:00 a.m. April 26th at the InterContinental Milwaukee and the HBCU Alumni Reception at 5:00 p.m. April 25th at the Golda Meir Auditorium, both of which all Milwaukee Board of School Directors are invited to attend. Milwaukee HBCU work group members will also be participating in the Work Group Sessions on April 25th. Johnny C. Taylor, Jr., President and CEO of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, has agreed to be a keynote speaker at the panel discussion. Dr. Darienne Driver, MPS Superintendent, and her senior staff will meet with conference participants as will staff from MPS Human Resources. Milwaukee High School of the Arts, Bradley Tech, Riverside and Reagan are putting together some terrific programs for the conference participants' visit to their schools. Additional conference activities are also being planned.
- Planning is in progress with the Governor's office for the 2017 UNCF Governor's Luncheon event.
- The MEP website has been updated and hosting services were changed. The new web address is: www.mepwisc.org.
- Work is in progress on designing an electronic MEP newsletter and distribution list.
- New office space for the MEP has been secured. The office move is planned for March 31, 2017. The new address is 633 West Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 405, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203. The phone and fax numbers will remain unchanged. Work is in progress to coordinate the move. Metered parking is available for visitors on the 5th floor of the parking structure adjacent to the building, entrance on Wisconsin Avenue.
- The Metropolitan Milwaukee Alliance of Black School Educators (MMABSE) hosted a panel discussion at its general membership meeting on February 25th around its theme of *Promoting Excellence for All: Imagine the Possibilities*. Panel speakers included Dr. Tony Evers, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tonya Adair, MPS Chief Innovation and Information Officer; and Gerard Randall, MEP Executive Director. Panelists were asked to respond to the following questions:

- With the difficulty that is being outlined in the media around recruiting individuals to the teaching profession, how do you propose making going into education more attractive?
- What are your thoughts on accountability for every educational entity receiving public funding?
- What are you doing to address the school-to-prison pipeline; that is, how are you assuring that our children and youth are college, career, and civic ready?