



## **MILWAUKEE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (MEP) MONTHLY REPORT**

**March 2015**

- Meetings and conversations were held between the Milwaukee Education Partnership (MEP) Executive Director, Gerard Randall, and various individuals within and outside of the partnership, including regular meetings with Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) staff, regarding education legislation, grants, partnerships, various initiatives, updates, MEP administrative business and more.
- Reggie Newson, Secretary of the Department of Workforce Development (DWD), and Mr. Randall met on March 6th to discuss potential deeper collaboration between the DWD and MPS.
- County Supervisor Khalif Rainey and Mr. Randall met to discuss economic development issues within neighborhoods in his district.
- Weekly legislative strategy sessions with MPS continued.
- Staff from the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board and Mr. Randall continued to work in collaboration on a proposal to revive the Step Up Program.
- Work has continued on development of the HBCU Initiative.
- On March 3rd, the MEP convened and sponsored the first meeting of the volunteer Reading Task Force formed at the recent Education Summit. The task force discussed city-wide reading initiatives and will continue to identify which reading initiative can be supported by the group including the MEP's Early Childhood Literacy Initiative. Mr. Randall followed up on the request for information on the Gwen T. Jackson School which was presented at the second task force meeting held on March 20th. Next steps include identification of one or two initiatives that can be endorsed by the task force for implementation this summer.
- Mr. Randall attended the Council of Great City Schools 2015 Legislative Policy Conference in Washington, DC along with MPS Superintendent Dr. Darienne Driver and others from MPS and the Milwaukee Board of School Directors. The conference included discussion on state policy issues, the ABCs of federal education policy, legislative briefings, various speakers including Education Secretary Arne Duncan, and more. Several attendees, including Dr. Driver, met with President Obama. There was also time during the conference set aside for individual visits on Capitol Hill. The MEP scheduled several visits attended by Mr. Randall, Dr. Driver and Board members. These included visits to the offices of Senators Baldwin, Johnson and Scott as well as Congresswoman Moore, where Dr. Driver, Dr. Bonds and Director Falk were introduced to the legislators and information was shared about current MPS successes and challenges.

- Mr. Randall, along with Dr. Driver, Dr. Bonds and many others, attended the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) Public Hearing held on the Alverno College campus on March 20th. Individual meetings were held with four members of the JFC. Dr. Driver also gave testimony to the committee concerning the challenges confronting MPS.
- The MEP drafted a joint letter from the MEP Board Chair & the CEO of Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company to the Joint Committee on Finance. The draft letter is being discussed.
- On March 23rd, Mr. Randall attended a meeting with Maureen Hoyler of the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) to receive updates on the progress of higher education funding in the federal budget. He shared this information with the MEP Executive Partners at their meeting later that same day.
- In addition to providing the update on higher education funding, the MEP Executive Partners/Board members were provided with updates on the Education Summit, legislative initiatives, MEP administrative issues, and grant initiatives and discussion was held on several of these issues during their monthly meeting on March 23rd. A presentation was made by Paul Krajniak and Mr. Randall concerning the NSF grant initiative.
- Paul Krajniak attended a meeting/brainstorming session of several staff members from MATC relative to a neighborhood initiative related to the NSF Bio-Science initiative.
- Work continued on development of an NSF Bio-Science grant proposal. A presentation was made by Paul Krajniak and Mr. Randall to Dr. David Haury, Program Director at the National Science Foundation (NSF) concerning this initiative. Dr. Haury will be discussing it further with his colleagues at the NSF.
- The MEP assisted with hospitality for the three national experts brought in by the School Board to share ideas through free workshops around parent advocacy, access to education, and urban space economy as they relate to recovery district models, taken from research and their experiences in New Orleans with Louisiana's Recovery School District following Hurricane Katrina. They also participated in a free panel discussion and community conversation about public education and the potential impact on Milwaukee's classrooms and communities by proposed legislation on education reforms.
- The GE Foundation monthly business leader conference call took place on March 19th. The Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy (CECP), a coalition of 150 CEOs united in the belief that societal improvement is an essential measure of progress, shared the business case that has emerged for instilling a broader purpose within a company. Through data, trends, and company case studies, CECP demonstrated how connecting the core business strategy to the needs of the community is a competitive advantage. Associated materials were received.