



MILWAUKEE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (MEP) MONTHLY REPORT

May 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.
- MPS Superintendent Dr. Darienne Driver, School Board President Dr. Michael Bonds, and Mr. Randall met in Madison with Senator Alberta Darling and Representative Dale Kooyenga regarding their proposed changes to MPS governance.
- Dr. Driver, Dr. Bonds, Mr. Randall and Mr. John Schlifske, CEO of Northwestern Mutual, met regarding proposed changes to MPS governance being entertained by the Joint Finance Committee of the Wisconsin legislature.
- Mr. Randall and Mr. David Nicholas of the Nicholas Family Foundation met to discuss the summer basketball camps at UWM. The foundation will again be providing funding for 100 Milwaukee students to participate. The Fellowship Open will again provide laptops to select students.
- Mr. Randall met with Fred Reed to discuss several initiatives he has in process around MPS students' college access.
- Mr. Randall met with Dr. Alan Shoho, the new Dean of the School of Education at UWM. Mr. Randall familiarized him with the MEP and heard about his ideas for the School of Education.
- 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.
- An update on the Loyola/Parkside initiative was provided by Mr. Randall to John Pelissero, Provost of Loyola University.
- Work has continued on development of the HBCU Initiative. Planning continued and conference work began for the second annual HBCU Conference. Dr. Keith Posley of MPS and Mr. Randall met to begin planning of school tours again as part of the conference; MEP, district and school staff followed through with finalizing tour plans and details. Presidents

and Deans of the Schools/Colleges of Education from approximately 75 Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) were invited to attend the conference. Many other local individuals were also invited to participate in various conference activities through individual invitation, network notices, and radio and newspaper advertisement. Conference and activity registration began.

- Dr. Karen Jackson, MPS Chief Human Capital Officer, and Mr. Randall met to discuss the MEP, Project METRO and how they and the MPS Office of Human Capital would participate in presentation of the HBCU Conference.
- The Reading Task Force continues work to identify which reading initiative(s) can be endorsed by the task force for implementation this summer. A formal proposal is being crafted to submit to task force members and potential funders.
- Mr. Randall and representatives from Cardinal Stritch University have been meeting regarding the Stritch African-American Leadership Program and Reading Literacy Centers. Efforts are under way to support an expansion of these programs.
- Work continued on development of an NSF Bio-Science grant proposal.
- A panel discussion, “Achieving Student Success in Milwaukee K through College: The M3 Initiative,” was held on May 13, 2015. Panelists were MEP Executive Partners--UWM Chancellor Dr. Mark Mone, MPS Superintendent Dr. Darienne Driver, and MATC President Dr. Vicki Martin. Discussion was about promoting more collaboration between Milwaukee public education institutions. Mr. Randall was in attendance.
- The GE Foundation monthly business leader conference call took place on May 28th. John Gomperts, President and CEO of America’s Promise Alliance; John Bridgeland, President and CEO, Civic Enterprises; and Dr. Robert Balfanz, Director, Everyone Graduates Center, Johns Hopkins University School of Education, shared an analysis of the findings from the 2015 Building a GradNation Report, the GradNation campaign’s sixth annual update on the progress and challenges in increasing high school graduation rates. This edition shows that the country hit a record high of 81.4 percent in 2013. For the third year in a row, the country remains on pace to achieve the national goal of a 90 percent on-time high school graduation rate by 2020. The call highlighted the remarkable progress made over the last decade and set forth the challenges that remain. Mr. Randall participated.
- The Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee 2015 MVP Salute to Youth was held on May 11th. The program honored youth, individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions. Mr. Randall attended.