



MILWAUKEE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (MEP) MONTHLY REPORT

July 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 and possible connections, various initiatives, updates, MEP administrative business and more.
- Mr. Randall and John Daniels met to discuss the Fellowship Open and its continued provision of i-Pads for MPS students at the summer basketball camps held at UWM. Dr. Driver acknowledged the Fellowship Open, which gave fully loaded i-Pads to ten participating students again this year. The Nicholas Family Foundation was acknowledged for its continued sponsorship of MPS students to attend the camps.
- Mr. Randall met with Maureen Hoyler from the Council for Opportunity in Education regarding to discuss the federal budgetary support for pre-college programming for under-privileged students.
- Reggie Newson, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, and Mr. Randall met to identify ways in which to support the effort to revive the Step Up Program.
- Work is in progress concerning follow-up to the second annual MEP HBCU (Historically Black Colleges & Universities) Conference which was held June 1-3, 2015, and development of the HBCU Initiative. A report on the conference is being prepared.
- Planning continues for a tour of schools and successful programs in Milwaukee for several legislators led by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos. The tour is being targeted for the first week of September.
- Efforts to support an expansion of the Stritch African-American Leadership Program and Reading Literacy Centers have continued.
- The MEP has continued to work on development of the Bio-Science Initiative grant proposal which included a meeting concerning college partnerships with Rudy Ruiz, Director of College and Career Readiness for Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS). UWM would handle the research for Milwaukee with a research partner yet to be identified for Baltimore. Final preparations were made for another presentation to the National Science Foundation, which included a meeting with Dr. Gregory Thornton, CEO of BCPS. Gerard Randall and Paul Krajniak made the presentation at the NSF to Dr. Robert Russell, Program Director,

Advancing Informal STEM Learning, Division of Research on Learning in Formal and Informal Settings, along with Dr. Thornton who joined via teleconference. Additional information is now being prepared in follow up to this meeting.

- Mr. Randall participated in the intense three-day MPS High School Strategic Action Session (SAS) held in Chicago, Illinois July 21-23, 2015, hosted through collaboration between the GMC and MPS. This session focused on reinventing the high school experience for students and families in Milwaukee through an iterative process with the goal of producing a road map for the high school of the future.
- Mr. Randall, MPS Superintendent Dr. Darienne Driver, and a number of MPS staff participated in the GE Foundation Summer Conference 2015, "*Bridging the Gap: Success for Tomorrow with STEM Skills Today*," held in Florida July 26-30, 2015. The conference consisted of best-in-class thinking, lessons from across the country, hands-on and actionable work, materials and tools to inform the work of bridging the skills gap.
- The MEP received a \$5,000 gift from the Evan & Marion Helfaer Foundation for the Literacy Initiative.