



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

**August 2014**

- 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 grants, partnerships, various initiatives, updates and more.
- Mr. Randall held meetings with representatives from Johnson Controls and a representative from the Bradley Foundation regarding both the MEP's HBCU Initiative and the Early Learner Reading/Literacy Initiative.
- Mr. Randall met with Paul Krajniak, Executive Director, Discovery World, to discuss a grant planning task force for a possible NSF grant application around the biological sciences.
- Mr. Randall met with Dr. Mark Mone, UWM Interim Chancellor, regarding the MEP and a possible NSF grant opportunity.
- Mr. Randall and the new Executive Partners from MPS, UWM and MATC met together for the first time to discuss common institutional issues. Each institution is providing a staff person to be involved on our NSF grant planning task force.
- Mr. Randall co-hosted a reception with Morgan State University President, Dr. David Wilson, to welcome Dr. Gregory Thornton into his new position as CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools. Mr. Randall met with Dr. Thornton and his senior team concerning possible future collaboration between Baltimore City Public Schools and MPS/MEP.
- Mr. Randall met with UW Foundation leadership regarding arranging an introduction meeting for Dr. Darienne Driver, MPS Acting Superintendent, with UW School of Education leadership and others.
- Alderman Willie Wade and Mr. Randall met regarding planning for the Fresh Coast Classic. This event will include a college fair for MPS Juniors and be held on the UWM campus.
- The MEP continues to align itself with MPS' efforts to improve opportunities for its students. Three critical areas MPS is focusing on this year are: accelerating student achievement, building positive relationships between youth and adults, and cultivating leadership at all levels.
- The annual Fellowship Open took place on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 100 third through sixth grade boys and girls from MPS participated in basketball camps sponsored by the Nicholas Family Foundation and run by the men's and women's athletic programs at UWM. Acting Superintendent, Dr. Darienne Driver; UWM Coach Rob Jeter; and Mr. Randall all

participated in the event, acknowledging the success of the program and expressing thanks to the Fellowship Open for its support of MPS youth. Ten of the students who successfully completed the program were awarded I-pads by the Fellowship Open.

- GE Foundation Business & Education Summit follow-up communications along with materials/resources have begun. Monthly business conference calls will begin on September 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Work has continued on development of the HBCU Initiative.
- Notes from the July 29<sup>th</sup> Head Start conference called convened by the MEP for the HHS - Administration for Children & Families (ACF) and Head Start operators in Milwaukee County were typed and distributed. The first meeting for the Milwaukee County Head Start operators was scheduled and a tentative agenda was developed from items brought up during the conference call.
- Planning for an MEP retreat has continued. It will take place on October 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The MEP continues to seek funding support for the Literacy Initiative. The \$5,000 gift previously promised for award at the beginning of the 2014-15 fiscal year by the Evan and Marion Helfaer Foundation was received.
- A letter of support from the MEP was provided to United Way for its School and Nonprofit Alignment and Coordination (SNAC) project grant application to the Department of Education's Investing in Innovation program.
- The basic design for the new MEP website was approved and further development of the site is in progress.
- Discussions have been held regarding the possibility of the MEP assuming the coordination of the Willie Davis Scholarship Fund.
- The MEP responded to a request from the HHS – Administration for Children & Families (ACF) for examples of cities implementing evidence-based and proven strategies aligned with the *My Brother's Keeper* mission. Information on the Milwaukee Violence Free Zone (MVFZ) and the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) programs in implementation at MPS was forwarded.
- The MEP responded to a request from MPS for any existing documents or brochures/catalogs that contain information on programs provided to MPS students.
- The MEP responded to an inquiry from an incoming student to UWM about tutoring opportunities.