



MILWAUKEE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (MEP) MONTHLY REPORT

September 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 regarding education legislation, grants, partnerships, various initiatives, updates, MEP administrative business and more.
- MEP Executive Partner Dr. Darienne Driver, Superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools, Gina Spang, MPS Chief of Staff, and Mr. Randall met to discuss MEP initiatives that engage MPS.
- Mr. Randall met with the new Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Scott Neitzel, to share information on the work of the MEP.
- Mr. Randall met with Tracy Maclin, Director - Diversity and Inclusion, Wisconsin Alumni Association, and Marion Brown, Vice President, University of Wisconsin Foundation, to receive updates on MEP initiatives including partnerships with the University of Wisconsin-Madison programs.
- A meeting was arranged with Dr. Diana Hess, the new Dean of the School of Education at UW-Madison, and Associate Dean Dawn Crim, for Mr. Randall to introduce himself and provide information on MEP initiatives.
- Mr. Randall met with Dr. Linda Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary & Inter-Departmental Liaison for Early Childhood Development, Health & Human Services – Administration for Children and Families on September 9th and shared updates on the work of the MEP with her.
- Mr. Randall met with Byron Zuidema, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration, to discuss the work of the partnership around youth job training and employment in Milwaukee. Mr. Randall and MEP Executive Partner Earl Buford, CEO of the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board, and several of his staff members have been engaging in conversations and strategizing about ways to fund and continue this work.
- On September 16th, Mr. Randall attended the Annual MMAC Milwaukee Day with the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation in Washington, DC.
- Mr. Randall met with Dr. Nancy Whitaker, Chair of the Institute of Professional Educator Development (IPED) at UW-Parkside to receive an overview of the IPED program.

- MEP Executive Partner Dr. James Loftus, President, Cardinal Stritch University, Mr. Randall, and Irene Loftus met on September 28th regarding the potential partnership between the Cardinal Stritch Literacy Center and MPS. Discussions are in progress concerning the possibility of additional MPS students entering the Cardinal Stritch University Literacy Program.
- Paul Krajniak and Mr. Randall met on September 3rd regarding the NSF Bio-Science Initiative. The MEP has continued to work on development of this initiative and has begun discussing a planning grant proposal.
- Mr. Randall met with staff in U.S. Senator John Cornyn's office to share information regarding MEP initiatives, particularly the NSF Bio-Science Initiative.
- Ellis Bromberg, General Manager, MPTV, and Mr. Randall met to discuss the Early Childhood Literacy Initiative. Work has continued on development of the initiative.
- Work continued on the MEP HBCU (Historically Black Colleges & Universities) Conference report and development of the HBCU Initiative.
- The monthly meeting of the MEP Executive Partners/Board was held on September 28th. Gerard Randall shared an update on programs/initiatives and legislative agenda preparations. The Executive Partners will seek to work on MEP goals during the next several upcoming monthly meetings. The top initiatives that were identified at the October 2014 retreat were distributed for review.
- A tour of programs in the central city of Milwaukee was planned and conducted on September 2nd for Wisconsin legislators and staff, led by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos. The overall purpose of the tour was to showcase central city Milwaukee initiatives that with state funding are serving as catalysts for neighborhood stabilization, revitalization or rebirth. Places on the tour included Milwaukee Academy of Science, Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (which included a presentation by Reggie Newson, Secretary of the Department of Workforce Development); Word of Hope Ministries (with the most successful ex-offender re-entry program in Milwaukee County); Lissy's Place - My Home Your Home Inc. (a transitional living facility for young women); the Harambee, Lindsey Heights, Bronzeville and Brewer's Hill neighborhoods (which have the highest concentration of high quality charter, choice, parochial and traditional public schools in Wisconsin). Sitings in these neighborhoods included construction in progress for Journey House (a shelter for women and children affected by domestic violence) and St. Ann's Intergenerational Center. Lunch was hosted by Gerard Randall.
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- The GE Foundation Business Leaders Monthly Conference Call was held on September 17th. Chris Minnich, Executive Director of CCSSO, discussed a new career readiness initiative that CCSSO has launched to address the skills gap; specifically, recommendations for states to take to improve career readiness in a report titled, *Opportunities and Options: Making*

Career Preparation Work for Students. Mr. Randall joined in the conference call and materials related to this presentation were received.

- Mr. Randall responded to an interview request as a key informant for the United Way Boys & Men of Color Policy Review. A review and analysis is being conducted of the programs and policies affecting local boys and men of color to assist United Way and other local community stakeholders in identifying national best practices and policy reform efforts related to boys and men of color and to gather input and feedback regarding programmatic and policy reform efforts locally. The process is designed to align with the focus areas identified by the City of Milwaukee's Black Male Achievement Advisory Council & the strategies being developed locally for boys and men of color.