



## MILWAUKEE PARTNERSHIP ACADEMY (MPA) MONTHLY REPORT

February 2013

- Meetings were held between the MPA Executive Director, Gerard Randall, and various individuals within and outside of the partnership as well as regular meetings with staff at Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) around grants, initiatives and activities.
- Robin Vos, State Assembly Speaker, met with the MPA Executive Partners on February 1<sup>st</sup> to share information about state and federal funding and policy for K-16 education. The Executive Partners shared their areas of interest and concern.
- On February 11<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Randall met with Reggie Newson, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, regarding the faith-based initiative to reduce unemployment in the Milwaukee central city.
- On February 18<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Randall met with Mike Huebsch, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, to discuss budget requests relative to MPA work.
- On February 19<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Gregory Thornton, Superintendent of MPS; Dr. Michael Bonds, President of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors; and Mr. Randall met with Senator Alberta Darling regarding public school funding support.
- Work has continued around the Milwaukee Community Solutions Action Plan (CSAP) reading initiative, including follow-up to the second meeting with the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Mr. Randall met with Linda Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary and Interdepartmental Liaison for Early Childhood Development, with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, and provided her with an update.
- Mr. Randall met with Dr. Jane Hannaway, Senior Vice President of the American Institutes for Research, to discuss having them make a presentation in Milwaukee of their research, findings and conclusions concerning student mobility.
- Activities continued concerning implementation of an Urban Teacher Residency (UTR) Program. The MTR Project METRO Steering Committee met on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- The Metropolitan Milwaukee Area Deans of Higher Education (MMADE) met on February 4<sup>th</sup> at Mount Mary College. The *Celebrating Teachers & Teaching Event* Steering Committee and subcommittees have been at work on organizing this event. Mr. Randall is working on fundraising.

- The MPA received a \$25,000 planning grant from the Faye McBeath Foundation for the proposal from the MMADE to improve professional development of school leaders.
- MPS Superintendent Gregory Thornton, Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch, and Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Secretary Reggie Newson hosted a meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup> with local workforce development leaders and faith-based leaders in Milwaukee concerning the reduction of minority unemployment, particularly among African-American males in the central city of Milwaukee. There was good discussion about the challenges that face many families in the community and invaluable input for working together to find ways to ensure that more people become aware of employment opportunities which can improve their lives and those of their families. Mr. Randall also participated in this meeting as well as the agenda planning meeting.
- Work has continued on preparation of an annual report of the MPA.
- Mr. Randall participated in MPS Charter School reviews.
- Comprehensive Mathematics Work Group/Milwaukee Mathematics Partnership (MMP) Update:
  - The Leadership for the Common Core in Mathematics (CCLM<sup>2</sup>) participants met on February 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - The spring courses centered on mathematics and the Common Core State Standards continued throughout February.
  - The Academic Coaches – Mathematics (ACMs) met on February 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. These meetings included the following:
    - A Content Pillar that focused on learning to develop understanding of fractions as numbers and to explain equivalence of fractions.
    - A Leadership Pillar that focused on learning how to create and refine coaching questions and respond to a concern with a coaching question containing the essential elements.
    - A session on the Common Core across the State.
    - A session on Think Aloud as part of learning to deepen understanding of an instructional strategy to strengthen problem solving skills in all students.
    - A session on Analyzing Student Work Protocol that focused on learning how to examine student work for the purpose of teacher feedback.
    - A session on a Grade Level Meeting Idea focused on learning to use a monthly planning template as a tool for analyzing the Instructional Guide.