

*Sharing in Student Success*



**MILWAUKEE**  
**PARTNERSHIP ACADEMY**

# *Milwaukee Partnership Academy* *A Report to Our Stakeholders ♦ 2013*

## **An Educational Partnership for Milwaukee**

- Advancing student achievement in academics
- Providing access to college
- Giving tools to teachers
- Preparing classrooms for the future
- Identifying and shepherding financial resources

## *A Message From Milwaukee Partnership Academy (MPA) Leadership*



### **The MPA 2013 Yearbook**

Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) is the largest school district in Wisconsin, and in the top forty in the United States. Serving the state's biggest city and economy, MPS' role is critical for preparing future economic citizens and growing the job force throughout Wisconsin.

The last few years, along with a lackluster economy, have produced challenges for our schools, teachers and students. A reduced tax base, thinning government assistance, and mounting pressure to reduce or eliminate costs have all contributed to a need to think creatively as to how to find new funding sources, use existing dollars more efficiently, and maximize our talented human resources.

The Milwaukee Partnership Academy (MPA) is pleased to report our organization has been a catalyst in identifying new money sources, helping better prepare our teachers, and improving academic opportunities for our most valuable asset—Milwaukee's students.

Our community stands on the broad shoulders of dreamers and doers. Many historical leaders in business, education, and government would see a problem or opportunity and find a way to fix it or get it done. We embrace their commitment and optimism, and look forward to answering the future challenges facing our school system.

**Dr. Michael Burke**

*President, Milwaukee Area Technical College  
Chairman, MPA Executive Partners*



**"Funding for public education is at a critical juncture, as financial and human resources are drastically changing."**

**"The Milwaukee Partnership Academy and its allies in education, business, and civic affairs understand the challenges facing our schools, students, and teachers. Finding solutions to enhance the quality of teaching and learning in Milwaukee Public Schools is the mission we are committed to."**

**Gerard Randall**

*Executive Director, Milwaukee Partnership Academy*

## *Helping Knowledge Grow*

### **The Roots of the Milwaukee Partnership Academy**

The Greek term academy traces its name back to Plato's school of philosophy and is commonly used to collectively define institutions of higher learning, and more broadly, supporters of education. Formed in 1999 by educators and civic leaders, the Milwaukee Partnership Academy (MPA)'s initial focus was to improve the education of children through better preparation, recruitment and retention of teachers.

As the partnership grew, the mission expanded to ensure every child in Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) is performing at or above grade level in reading, writing and mathematics through shared responsibility for student success. To accomplish its goals, the partnership sought grants and funding to increase resources for better teaching and learning.

Today, MPA's core mission continues, but it also seeks to help MPS navigate the challenges facing large urban school districts, and includes:

1. Raising graduation rates
2. Advocating for public education
3. Improving student learning and access to higher education opportunities
4. Professional development of teachers and administrators
5. Identifying resources to support its mission

As part of this ongoing expansion of our goals, the Milwaukee Partnership Academy (MPA) is in the process of an organizational name change to the Milwaukee Education Partnership (MEP) to more accurately reflect our comprehensive mission and collaborative approach.



### **Statement of Purpose**

**“The purpose of the MPA is to assist in the improvement of academic achievement of Milwaukee students in reading, writing, math and science; to enable access to higher education opportunities; to provide professional development for teachers and administrators; and to assist in fund development for the partner institutions.”**

**Dr. Gregory Thornton**  
*Superintendent, Milwaukee Public Schools*  
*Member, MPA Executive Partners*



## *Student Achievement*

### **Advancing Student Achievement**

The Milwaukee Partnership Academy (MPA) has a fundamental commitment to enhance the quality of teaching and the level of learning in Milwaukee schools. A natural outgrowth of this focus on student achievement has been programs to help open the world of college to the students benefiting from our multi-organizational commitment to increased opportunities.

The early years are vital, and MPA's commitment to reading skills continues with the Early Childhood Literacy Initiative -- the developing effort to improve literacy from birth through Grade 3 that began with joining the national Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, which is cosponsored by the National Civic League and others.

Our students also need support at graduation, and the opening of two college access centers in the metro-Milwaukee area are filling that need. The centers -- one on the north side, and the other on the south side -- are open on the evenings and weekends and are designed to help demystify the process of learning about and applying to colleges with the help of highly-qualified advisors. It is the goal of the MPA to assist in the creation of two additional centers.

**“I’m extremely proud of the Milwaukee Partnership Academy’s new college access centers to help all Milwaukee students take the next step to college. This common-sense initiative is making a tremendous difference.”**

Dr. Michael Lovell  
*Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*  
*Member, MPA Executive Partners*

The college centers are open to all Milwaukee students, regardless of which school or school system they attend. The counselors, teachers and advisors offer small-group and individual workshops that help students understand the coursework they'll need for college, prepare to take the ACT, select/apply for colleges and understand/apply for critical financial aid and resources and other supports.



**“Every single senior who has been served at the existing north side center was accepted into at least one college.”**

**- Milwaukee Public School Press Statement, September 2012**

## *Providing Tools for Teachers*

### **Strengthening young minds**

**“A teacher is the bridge between our community, school and student. An investment in teaching reaps benefits to the whole community and economy.”**

Dr. Robert Peterson

*President, Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association*

*Member, MPA Executive Partners*

### **A Partnership with Teachers**

In 2010, the Milwaukee Public Schools was awarded a \$20 million five-year grant from the GE Foundation to improve math and science instruction and student achievement. The MPA has participated in the implementation of this significant effort to advance science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) related learning in MPS classrooms.

Science and mathematics educators, as well as educators and staff from many MPA institutions, work collaboratively to support STEM education for Milwaukee students in kindergarten through college. The purpose of the grant is to build the capacity of the schools for continuous improvement toward student success in mathematics and science.



**“Project METRO, the Urban Teacher Residency Program, is an example of how MPA is preparing and sustaining a cadre of highly effective and highly committed urban teachers dedicated to accelerating student achievement among Milwaukee schools.”**

Dr. James Loftus

*President, Cardinal Stritch University*

*Member, MPA Executive Partners*

## *Governance*

### **Funding & Administration**

The Milwaukee Partnership Academy (MPA) was formed in 1999 as an Urban PK-16 Council for Quality Teaching and Learning when several core partners jointly applied for a Title II grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The overarching goal of the Title II grant -- to develop a comprehensive teacher education prototype to prepare K-12 teachers to teach in an urban school setting through a strong and unique partnership.

Milwaukee Education Partnership was incorporated in 2013 and has requested a 501(c)(3) status, as a federally recognized not-for-profit organization.

MPA/MEP is overseen by a board of Executive Partners, composed of the leaders of the core partners, and includes a chairperson selected from the board. This group provides the ongoing direction, goals and objectives for the work of MPA/MEP. Funds are administered and dispersed through a fiscal agent, which is currently the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board. The organization has an office in the central business district in the City of Milwaukee and employs a full-time executive director and office administrator.

In addition, MPA/MEP has several working groups, comprised of various individuals from its many partner institutions, organizations and agencies, that operate and meet regularly concerning current initiatives, including Project METRO and the Early Childhood Literacy Initiative.

**“MPS and its partners were awarded nearly \$30 million over seven years to dramatically swell the pipeline of its youth entering two– and four-year higher education institutions.”**

**“The funds further leverage a multi-million dollar investment from the Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation to establish two college access centers where young people and their families may obtain assistance in completing college applications, financial aid and scholarship forms, ACT/SAT testing and access pre-college exposure programs.”**

**Dr. Michael Bonds**

*President, Milwaukee Board of School Directors*

*Member, MPA Executive Partners*

## ***Our Community Partners***

### **Core Partners**

Milwaukee Area Technical College  
Dr. Michael Burke, President & MPA Executive Partners Chairman

Cardinal Stritch University  
Dr. James Loftus, President

Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce  
Timothy Sheehy, President

Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board  
Donald Sykes, Chief Executive Officer

Milwaukee Board of School Directors  
Dr. Michael Bonds, President

Milwaukee Public Schools  
Dr. Gregory Thornton, Superintendent

Milwaukee Public Television  
Dr. Ellis Bromberg, General Manager

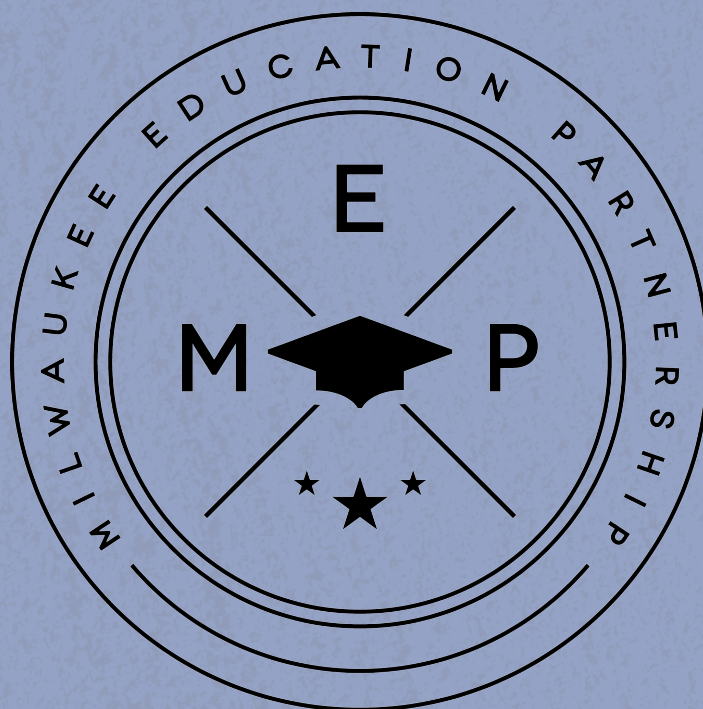
Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association  
Dr. Robert Peterson, President

University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee  
Dr. Michael Lovell, Chancellor

### **Partners**

Administrators & Supervisors Council	Milwaukee Public Library
Alverno College	Milwaukee Public Museum
Archdiocese of Milwaukee	Milwaukee Public Schools
Assurant Health Foundation	Milwaukee Public Television
Betty Brinn Children's Museum	Milwaukee Teacher Education Center
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee	Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association
Cardinal Stritch University	Milwaukee Urban League
Carroll University	Mount Mary College
Centro Hispano Milwaukee	Neighborhood House
Concordia University Milwaukee	Next Door Foundation
Consortium for Policy Research in Education at UW-Madison	Northcott Neighborhood House
Discovery World Museum	Parents
Education Deans of Greater Milwaukee	PTA
Greater Milwaukee Committee	SHARP Literacy, Inc.
Marquette University	Social Development Commission
Medical College of Wisconsin	United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee
Metropolitan Milwaukee Alliance of Black School Educators	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Milwaukee Area Academic Alliance in English	UW System Institute for Urban Education
Milwaukee Area Technical College	Wisconsin Center for Education Research
Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board	Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Milwaukee Board of School Directors	Wisconsin Lutheran College
Milwaukee Center for Independence	YMCA
	Zoological Society of Milwaukee County





*The Milwaukee Partnership Academy (MPA) is in the process of an organizational name change to the Milwaukee Education Partnership (MEP) to better reflect our comprehensive mission and collaborative approach.*

## *Milwaukee Partnership Academy A Report to Our Stakeholders ♦ 2013*

Phone: 414-988-9034  
Fax: 414-988-6170  
[www.mepwisc.org](http://www.mepwisc.org)

Milwaukee Education Partnership  
735 West Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 710  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233