



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

**October 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.
- Mr. Randall met with Gregory Dillon from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation to share information about MEP initiatives.
- Mr. Randall met with staff at Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) to discuss MEP initiatives that engage MPS.
- State Assembly Speaker Robin Vos met with Mr. Randall concerning education initiatives that may be considered in the legislative sessions beginning in January. Vos and Randall agreed to continue their conversation after the Urban Education Task Force has had its meeting in Green Bay on November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch and Mr. Randall met on October 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss Milwaukee education and workforce development initiatives.
- Mr. Randall met with the new president of the Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association, Kim Schroeder, to welcome him as a new Executive Partner in the MEP and familiarize him with its work.
- Conversation was held between Mr. Randall and Ms. Eloise Anderson, Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. Updates on the work of the MEP were shared.
- State Representative Rob Hutton and Mr. Craig DeRoche, President, Justice Fellowship, met with Mr. Randall to discuss corrections reform, restorative justice, and workforce development with ex-offenders. Particular attention was given to juvenile justice reform initiatives in Wisconsin.
- Mr. Reggie Newson, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, arranged an introduction meeting for Mr. Randall and Mr. Bob Simi, Executive Director, Milwaukee Regional Medical Center. At the meeting, discussion was held to update Mr. Simi on the work of the MEP.
- Mr. Randall spoke with staff from the U.S. Department of Labor, Region 5 Employment & Training Administration office in Chicago, to discuss the work of the partnership around

youth job training and employment in Milwaukee and seek information on funding opportunities. Mr. Randall is following up on this meeting also with MEP Executive Partner Earl Buford, CEO of the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board, and his staff with regard to the efforts to find ways to fund and continue the work Milwaukee has been doing around this.

- Discussions continued between Cardinal Stritch University and MPS staff concerning the possibility of additional MPS students entering the Cardinal Stritch University Literacy Program.
- Work has continued on development of the Early Childhood Literacy Initiative. A possible matching funds opportunity for a possible summer learning program grant opportunity was investigated.
- The MEP continued its work on development of a planning grant proposal for the NSF regarding the Bio-Science Initiative.
- The MEP hosted a meeting of MEP Executive Partner designees to discuss their legislative priorities. Common priorities are being identified and will be further discussed.
- Work has continued on the development of the HBCU (Historically Black Colleges & Universities) Initiative. The 2014-2015 MEP HBCU Conference report has been completed and will be posted/distributed.
- The MEP assisted the MKE Fellows with collection of applications from HBCU students from Milwaukee for the 2016 MKE Fellows Summer Internship Program.
- Additional work on the MEP website is in progress.
- The GE Foundation Business Leaders Monthly Conference Call was held on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Robert Schwartz, Professor Emeritus of Practice in Educational Policy and Administration, Harvard Graduate School of Education, provided a close look at the challenge of ensuring that all students leave high school college- and career-ready. A strategy for developing closer coordination between the education system and the workforce system to address the middle skills shortage was also discussed. Mr. Randall joined in the conference call.
- An MPS Strategic Actioning Session (SAS) Booster Shot Session was held on October 21<sup>st</sup>, which Mr. Randall participated in. This was in follow-up to the MPS SAS high school re-invention conference that was held in July. The October session included a refinement of the goals and strategies formulated during the July session.
- The installation ceremony of Dr. Mark Mone as the ninth Chancellor at UWM took place on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Leaders from across the UWM campus, MEP and the Milwaukee community were invited to the October 16<sup>th</sup> welcome reception for Dr. Alan Shoho, the new Dean of the School of Education at UWM.
- Dr. Mark Mone was one of three distinguished education and research leaders who faced a panel of journalists to talk about the efforts to make Milwaukee a research hub at the Milwaukee Press Club's Behind the Headlines event: *Milwaukee—The Next Research Hub?*

- Mr. Randall attended the *Beyond the Bell* leadership briefing to explore local and national efforts to improve youth access to quality after-school programs and services, organized by the Center for Youth Engagement. The new report, *Growing Together, Learning Together*, from The Wallace Foundation was the springboard to opportunity to learn more about after school systems-building and generate ideas to inform local action. This event featured discussion on a number of topics including collecting and understanding data, advancing after-school program quality, improving coordination efforts, and harnessing the power of effective leadership. It included interaction with national experts from The Wallace Foundation, American Youth Policy Forum, Data Quality Campaign, and the University of Chicago - Chapin Hall.
- On October 22<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Randall attended the *Catalyst Circle: Champions for Change Reception*, a celebration of students, community members and partners who embody Champions for Change. This event was organized by the Milwaukee Area Health Education Center (MAHEC), whose vision is to be a catalyst for promoting health equity through academic and community partnerships.