



MILWAUKEE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (MEP) MONTHLY REPORT

March 2016

- 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.
- An update on the MEP Early Childhood Literacy Initiative and information on the MEP Bioscience and HBCU initiatives was shared with staff at the Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- Mr. Randall participated in meetings regarding the UW System Diversity Initiative which included UW System Regent Eve Hall.
- A trip to Washington, DC was made on March 9-11, 2016. A number of meetings were conducted during this trip, including the following:
 - Meeting with Will Miller, Legislative Assistant in Congressman Paul Ryan's office to learn Speaker Ryan's priorities for K-16 education and views on the recently authorized Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Work of the MEP was also shared and an overview of Speaker Ryan's positions was received.
 - Meeting with Dr. David Haury, Program Director at the National Science Foundation regarding the MEP Bioscience Initiative proposal.
 - Meeting with Dr. Linda Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary & Inter-Departmental Liaison for Early Childhood Development with Health & Human Services – Administration for Children & Families, regarding Head Start in Milwaukee County, planning for her to visit Milwaukee, and sharing of updates on the MEP.
- Mr. Randall was in Madison on March 14 to meet with Ray Allen, Secretary, Department of Workforce Development, regarding youth employment initiatives.
- Dr. Deborah Ford, Chancellor at UW-Parkside, and Mr. Randall met regarding the MEP. Due to the need for greater focus of time and energy on heightened community initiatives around K12 in Kenosha and Racine, Dr. Ford is suspending her service at this time as an MEP Executive Partner, but will continue to collaborate and partner on project-specific initiatives.
- The MEP arranged an introduction meeting for Dr. Nancy Whitaker, Chair of the Institute of Professional Educator Development at UW-Parkside, and Julie Landry, Director of Human

Resources at Racine Unified School District. There was also continued discussion on MEP projects, including the Project Metro Alternative Certification (PMAC) Program.

- Dr. Nancy Whitaker, Dr. Deborah Ford, and Mr. Randall met to discuss the UW-Parkside education program and have continued discussion on education programs.
- An introduction conference call was arranged and held for Mr. Randall with Michael Johnson of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dane County. They discussed the upcoming UNCF Governor's Luncheon, to be co-hosted by Mr. Randall and Governor Walker in Madison.
- Mr. Randall toured the Next Door facility on Capitol Drive and met with Next Door's president, Tracey Sparrow, regarding the Next Door Head Start and early childhood programming initiatives.
- The MEP took a group of School of Education deans and staff to Loyola University Chicago on March 28 for a day visit with regard to their Urban Teacher Program. UW-Milwaukee, UW-Madison, and MATC were able to participate. The group heard from the Dean of the School of Education, Dr. Terri Pigott, and a number of other staff there. Much was learned about the Loyola teacher preparation programs and partnerships. Also included was a school site visit to Senn High School involving discussion with leadership, an interactive school tour and a Q&A session. Follow-up information/resources from Loyola were received and distributed to the group. Plans will be pursued for a future visit to Milwaukee by Loyola. A team of faculty from Loyola University Chicago has agreed to make a similar presentation to those interested in Milwaukee.
- Work has continued on various aspects of the HBCU (Historically Black Colleges & Universities) Initiative. Individuals continued to be identified to serve as members and co-chairs on the six work groups. Tasks were assigned to work groups. Planning continued and sponsors are being sought for the UNCF scholarship fundraising event. Planning has continued for the third MEP HBCU Conference to be held April 25-27, 2016.
- Work has continued on development of the NSF Bio-science grant initiative and refining of the planning grant proposal. Numerous meetings have been held with those working on this initiative. Several contacts have been made with the NSF.
- Mr. Randall and Paul Krajniak met with program officers at the Helen Bader Foundation to share about the Bioscience Initiative and they also discussed the visit with Loyola University Chicago.
- Discussions continued with Stritch staff and MPS staff concerning the Cardinal Stritch University Literacy Program initiative.
- The annual Council of the Great City Schools Legislative & Policy Conference took place March 19-22, 2016. Mr. Randall participated in the conference. Some of the conference highlights included: Policy discussion on education issues at the state level, a "primer" on education policy in Washington, presentation on implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) at the U.S. Department of Education, congressional intent in ESSA. Key speakers included: The Honorable John King, U.S. Secretary of Education; The Honorable Michael Yudin, Assistant Secretary, and Ruth Ryder, Acting Director, Special Education and Rehabilitative Services – U.S. Department of Education; and The Honorable Marcia Fudge, Ranking Democratic Member – Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and

Secondary Education Committee on Education and the Workforce – U.S. House of Representatives.

- The monthly GE Foundation Business Leader Conference Call was held on March 10. It was led by Bill Symonds, Director, Global Pathways Institute and Professor of Practice at Arizona State University. He discussed the topic of preparing all young adults for career success - and recent findings from a U.S. Chamber of Commerce event supported by broad coalition of organizations committed to the goal of providing high-quality career development to all young adults. Mr. Randall participated in the conference call. Presentation materials were received as well as additional resources and ways to connect.