



MILWAUKEE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (MEP) MONTHLY REPORT

July 2014

- Meetings and conversations were held between the Milwaukee Education Partnership (MEP) Executive Director, Gerard Randall, and various individuals within and outside of the partnership including regular meetings with Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) staff regarding grants, partnerships, various initiatives, updates and more.
- The MEP bid farewell to MPS Superintendent, Dr. Gregory Thornton, who has become the new Chief Executive Officer of Baltimore City Public Schools. Mr. Randall met with/welcomed the Acting Superintendent of MPS, Dr. Darienne Driver. Dr. Driver was previously serving as the MPS Chief Innovation Officer. Mr. Randall also met with the new MPS Chief of Staff, Erbert Johnson, regarding the MEP.
- Mr. Randall met with the new CEO of the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board, Earl Buford, to welcome and familiarize him with MEP initiatives and discuss his role in the partnership. Don Sykes recently retired from this position. Mr. Buford was previously President/CEO of the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership (WRTP)/BIG-STEP.
- MEP Executive Partner Ellis Bromberg from Milwaukee Public Television and Mr. Randall met on July 10th regarding future initiatives of the MEP as well as implementation of the MEP Literacy Initiative.
- DWD Secretary, Reggie Newson, and Scott Jansen, DWD Employment & Training Division Administrator, met with Mr. Randall to brief the MEP on the blueprint grants for dual enrollment and work based learning and for follow-up discussion concerning their CareerConnect grant. Dennis Baskin, MPS District Coordinator for Career & Technical Education also joined the meeting.
- Mr. Randall attended a meeting with Senator Paul Farrow, Acting Superintendent Darienne Driver, and School Board President Michael Bonds on July 30th. They discussed leadership transitions at MPS and the challenges faced by MPS.
- Mr. Randall attended the Fourth Annual GE Foundation Business & Education Summit on July 14-15, 2014, held in Orlando, Florida. As the nation is challenged in preparing students to enter the workforce prepared to help businesses grow and succeed, the GE Foundation actively supports education and focuses on areas that have the greatest impact and that can improve outcomes for all students. Numerous businesses around the country are contributing professional insight in the areas of innovation, quality control and continuous improvement and also make financial contributions to help students graduate ready to succeed. Representatives of the education and business communities come together at this summit

each year to try and leverage the rich resources of the business community in support of public education and continue the dialogue about applying business practices to accelerate change. The objectives of this year's summit were:

- To explore what the American business community can do to build a culture of leadership, collaboration, innovation, and data-driven decision making in its support of public education.
 - To apply innovative business practices to accelerate change in K-12 education at the national, state, and local levels.
 - To promote and share promising new ideas and effective approaches to improving the education system.
- A determination letter was received from the Internal Revenue Service indicating that the MEP application for federal income tax exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code has been approved.
 - Work continued on development of the HBCU Initiative. Mr. Randall met with Blaine Gibson to solicit support from the Robert W. Baird Company.
 - Project METRO Steering Committee members, including Mr. Randall, attended the education briefing put together for them by Apple, Inc. in Chicago. The briefing included presentation and discussion with a higher education expert on trends in higher education, presentation and discussion with a K-12 expert on changes in the classroom and how to best prepare teachers, discussion on how to improve teacher quality through use of the Apple ecosystem, and a hands-on session. In follow-up, Apple sent references and additional resources to the MEP, which were then forwarded to all attendees.
 - The MEP is convening monthly meetings in August, September and October for the Executive Partners from MPS, UWM and MATC to discuss common institutional issues.
 - The MEP convened a conference call for Linda Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary & Interdepartmental Liaison for Early Childhood Development, HHS - Administration for Children & Families (ACF) and the Acting Director of the ACF Head Start Office with all of the Head Start operators in Milwaukee County (Acelero Learning Wisconsin, Centro Hispano Milwaukee, Milwaukee Public Schools, and Next Door). Mr. Randall and Acting Superintendent, Dr. Darienne Driver, also participated in the call. The objective was to review the first year of operation under the new contract for Head Start. Sharing/discussion took place about the program, successes, challenges, upcoming programming and ideas for the future. The ACF Office of Head Start will be sharing some helpful resources. This group of Head Start operators will continue to meet, collaborate, and address issues to improve Head Start services and operations. The first three meetings will be convened by the MEP. The MEP will carry appropriate issues back to its meetings on common institutional issues. Appropriate feedback in the future will also be provided to the Administration for Children & Families which is seeking continuous improvement of the Head Start program and ways to enable Head Start operators to provide more and better services to families.
 - Work began on putting together an MEP retreat.
 - The MEP continues to seek funding support for the Milwaukee Early Childhood Literacy Initiative.
 - A basic design proposal for the new MEP website was developed and is being reviewed.