



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Milwaukee Partnership Academy invited teachers to become an Action Research Fellow, sponsored by the NEA Foundation and MetLife Foundation. Teachers will be selected to join a nationwide teacher network. We are seeking teachers who would like to take an active role in influencing policy in the following areas:

- Teacher Leadership in School Change
- Teacher Preparation and New Teacher Induction
- Ongoing Professional Growth
- Teacher Networks

Action Research Fellows' work will center on closing achievement gaps to improve student achievement, conducting action research in their classrooms and schools, engaging the public and elected officials in community conversations about public education, and publishing and disseminating findings and recommendations nationwide.

Teachers selected to become MPA Action Research Fellows will:

- Increase knowledge of major challenges facing the teaching profession by taking part in discussions with experts based on readings
- Improve leadership skills
- Be recognized by the public and the media
- Represent teachers nationwide as spokesperson for policy issues
- Participate in action research
- Be awarded a \$1,000 stipend
- Become members of an online community

We seek diverse groups of teacher leaders who are active in school communities and have track records in improving schools. Fellows will conduct much of their work online.

The 15 MPA Action Research Fellows will be announced at the March 17th meeting of the MPA Partners.

— Christine Anderson, Ph.D.  
Executive Director, MPA

### Our Primary Goals:

1. Improve teacher and principal quality.
2. Increase student achievement at all educational levels.
3. Address systematic issues across educational institutions.

We address these goals through our Implementation Team, which has six work groups: Comprehensive Math and Literacy; Tutoring and Family Literacy; Teacher and Principal Quality; Research and Evaluation; Skunkworks; and Community Partners.

## UNIVERSITY CORNER

### • Milwaukee Shakespeare

*Marcy Kearns, Education Administrator at Milwaukee Shakespeare*

Milwaukee Shakespeare, the professional theatre that produces three Shakespeare plays each season, provides MPS students and staff with a great opportunity. The theatre received affiliate funding from UPAF and a grant from the Harley-Davidson Foundation to subsidize educational programming. This involves offering free and half-price tickets to MPS schools attending the spring production of *Richard II*. There is also assistance with bus transportation costs if needed. Because of the grant funding, Milwaukee Shakespeare is also able to continue offering MPS schools workshops free of charge. **Milwaukee Public Schools will receive TOP PRIORITY in consideration for financial assistance for this field trip opportunity.**

### • PEAK Awards

The UWM School of Education seeks nominations for its annual PEAK (Promoting Education Achievement for Kids) Awards. To nominate an educator, community leader or organization promoting educational excellence or enhancing educational opportunities for Milwaukee-area youth go to [www.soe.uwm.edu/pages/welcome/PEAK\\_Award/PEAK\\_Award\\_Online\\_Nomination](http://www.soe.uwm.edu/pages/welcome/PEAK_Award/PEAK_Award_Online_Nomination).

### • UWM Research Conference

The 18th annual UWM School of Education Research conference, "Using Multiple Research Methods to Effect Changes in Urban Communities," will address the important issue of research methods in urban education. UWM School of Education faculty, staff and students will give presentations of educational research. The conference will be held at the Radisson North Shore (formerly the Manchester East Hotel and Suites), 7065 North Port Washington Road, on Thursday, March 16. The keynote speaker is Margaret Beale Spencer, GSE Board of Overseers Professor of Education and Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education. Her address is entitled "Exploring Hypermasculinity in Context: Neighborhood Character, Family Structure and Parental Monitoring." Register online at [www.soe.uwm.edu](http://www.soe.uwm.edu).

## NEA Family Involvement Grants — Congratulations!

The schools receiving NEA Family Involvement grants are incorporating monthly family lunch projects, literature response journals, writing workshops, literacy nights, storytelling and book clubs into their programs. The following is a brief summary of these grants.

**Garland Elementary School** — The goal is to increase the number of proficient Science Fair Projects from 65 to 75 and increase parental attendance by 5% at the following activities:

- |                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. WKCE Test Information night | 4. Science Night  |
| 2. Science Fair Prep Night     | 5. Literacy Night |
| 3. Math Night                  |                   |

**Twenty-first Street School** — Students will be given a pre/post test on basic concepts. Parents will read weekly to their children and help with a weekly project. Parents will be given a survey at the end of the 16 weeks to assess effectiveness of the program.

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This publication was sponsored by the Metropolitan Milwaukee Area Deans of Higher Education (MMADE) – Dean Tia Bojar and Dean Alfonzo Thurman, co-chairs.



The Milwaukee Board of School Directors



mteaching all children

matc Milwaukee Area Technical College

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE

CARDINAL STRUTCH UNIVERSITY

MMADE Council of Small Business Executives

PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

MILWAUKEE AREA BOARD OF COMMERCE

HELEN RAIDER FOUNDATION

The Milwaukee Mayor's Office

## Welcome to our New MPA Executive Partners!

### MPA Executive Partner

**Sister Mary Lea Schneider**  
*President of Cardinal Stritch University*

“The MPA functions as a vehicle promoting the direct goal of all Milwaukee schools, namely, to ensure success in student learning and achievement. Indirectly, bringing resources and focus to strengthen the skills and knowledge-base of teachers and staff, to increase the capacity of each teacher and the collective capacity of each school, the MPA helps build the foundation grounding student success. I am grateful that the private colleges and universities who train many of our Milwaukee and MPS faculty now have an opportunity to be included in the dialogue and work of the Academy at the Executive Partners level, having been involved for a number of years at the operational level.”

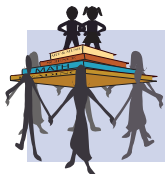


### MPA Executive Partner

**Elizabeth Burmaster**  
*State Superintendent of Public Instruction*

“Raising student achievement takes the entire community. I am excited to be a part of the MPA and its work to bring leaders in MPS, the business community, the teachers union, the philanthropic community, the city, and the college and university communities together

around our shared value and responsibility of raising student achievement for all students and closing the achievement gap. MPA efforts have and will continue to have a positive impact on Milwaukee students.”



**HOLD THE DATE:** On June 28-30, 2006 there will be a national conference in Milwaukee, *Embrace the Challenge: Closing the Achievement Gaps through Partnerships and Leadership.*

**Fifty-third Street School** — Kindergarten children will read *Pete's a Pizza* and then discuss and illustrate the story. Parents will be invited to participate in an after-school activity revolving around the story using literacy strategies and math strategies. They will then participate as a family in a Pizza Night.

**Lloyd Street School** — A book club will be established for parents and the school will update its Family Resource Center. Books for parents to read to their children and literacy rich activities will be provided.

**Maple Tree Elementary School** — A monthly family lunch project in second grade classrooms will be established. Lunches will be student designed and prepared. Each lunch theme will be completed by the child and their guest and will include a giveaway book, math manipulative or game or scientific tool for the family to remember.

**Hampton Elementary School** — One Grade 5 class will ask parents to chaperone on field trips that inspire writing and volunteer to participate in writing workshops. The parents will help children co-author an original story. The books will be bound and ready for publishing. The parents and children will read their books to other classrooms at the school.

**La Escuela Fratney** — Two Family Literacy Nights with storytelling, hands-on projects and book making will be established in conjunction with literacy circles for parents.

**Hi-Mount Boulevard Elementary School** — Three learning sessions for parents will be held. One will be on Webgrader (online software which parents can access from home or the library to monitor students' progress) and two sessions will update parents on middle school issues (bullying, competition, learning styles...)

**Wisconsin Conservatory of Lifelong Learning** — Literature response journals will be developed for fifth grade students and their parents. Parents and children will read a book and then keep a written journal of their thoughts and reactions to the literature. A Parent Workshop will introduce the idea, weekly writings will occur and an end-of-the-year celebration will be held.

**Fritsche Middle School** — A Saturday morning conference will be held for parents, teachers and students in Team G of the school. Parents of low achieving students will meet one on one with the team teachers. Bus passes for parents will be provided.

### Newsmakers

MPA Executive Director **Christine Anderson** is receiving the 2006 Women Putting Their Stamp on Metro Milwaukee Award in the category of Education at the 8th Women's History Month Awards Luncheon and Leadership Conference March 24.

**Byron Kilbourn Elementary** won the BOOK IT! Program's Annual Enrollment Sweepstakes. Their grand prize includes **\$10,000** to be used exclusively for the school library or other educational resources, \$25 Barnes & Noble gift cards for the principal, **Lisa Marion-Howard**, each of the teachers and the school librarian and a school-wide pizza party provided by Pizza Hut.

**Marleen C. Pugach** of UWM has authored and published a book entitled *Because Teaching Matters.*

The **Lowell Elementary School K5 teachers** have developed a growth monitoring classroom assessment based on the K5 Learning Targets that will be administered three times a year to note student progress toward proficiency.

**Bob Peterson**, teacher at **La Escuela Fratney**, joined others as they spoke about “Teaching English in Times of Conflict” on November 5.

The KnowledgeWorks Foundation in Ohio recently recognized **MPA**. An MPA case study on improving Milwaukee's education was presented to Ohio's PK-16 Council.

**Santa Consiglio** of **Honey Creek Continuous Progress School** was selected by the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators and DPI as the 2006 Wisconsin Principal of the Year.