

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD’S DELEGATE TO THE MILWAUKEE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (MEP)**

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*July 25, 2019*

*Submitted by President Larry Miller|*

### **HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HBCU) CONFERENCE**

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The Milwaukee Education Partnership hosted its well-attended fifth annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Conference in April. The partnership among the MEP, the Milwaukee Public Schools, and more than 30 HBCU institutions is the largest involving a K-12 school district and significant HBCUs. The collaboration endeavors to encourage HBCU graduates — especially educators, engineers, healthcare and agriculture professionals — to serve in Southeastern Wisconsin. Participants crafted plans for identifying and recruiting potential HBCU candidates for service, especially in MPS and the Racine Unified School District (RUSD).

### **HBCU COLLEGE FAIR AND HBCU SUNDAY**

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Planning for the third annual MEP-sponsored HBCU College Fair and HBCU Sunday continues. The fair features representatives of HBCUs who will provide attending families with information regarding admissions, student financial aid, and campus activities and support services. The fair, to be held at Milwaukee Vincent High School, coincides with HBCU Sunday, which is held on the first Sunday of October. Predominantly African American faith congregations around Wisconsin are encouraged to allow a representative of an HBCU — whether a current student, a parent, an alumnus, a benefactor, or staff — to speak to the congregation about the importance of HBCUs to the development of African American professionals and communities. Participation has grown dramatically in both the fair and in the number of congregations permitting speakers.

### **MILWAUKEE-RACINE REGIONAL COUNCIL**

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The Milwaukee-Racine Regional Council, of which the MEP is a member, has met several times to discuss ways in which collaborations can be developed to prepare and certify educators under the new authority granted to local school districts by the State of Wisconsin. Future meetings are being planned.

### **THE LEADING MEN FELLOWS INITIATIVE (LMF)**

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The Leading Men Fellows Initiative (LMF) has successfully graduated its first cohort of seven young men of color who are recent high-school graduates — most from MPS, especially Riverside High School — who are trained and employed as literacy coaches to pre-school-aged children. The coaches are on a track to become early childhood educators. Their initial higher-education preparation is through the Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC). Placements are in MPS and the Next Door Foundation. Each coach receives a \$15 hourly wage and a \$5,000 scholarship.

The new cohort of ten will begin this August. The MEP has been instrumental in bringing the program from Washington, DC, as well as in identifying, soliciting, and acquiring funding for the program. Funders include the State of Wisconsin, the Greater Milwaukee Funders Collaborative, the Kellben Foundation, and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.

### **NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE LEVEL READING (GLR)**

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The MEP was among the first participants in the national Campaign for Grade Level Reading (GLR) and continues to be so. The MEP, with more than 30 local partners, has developed a plan to address such literacy issues as the “summer slide,” early learners’ literacy, and parental engagement. The Partnership continues to refine its plan and to seek funding for its implementation.

## URBAN EDUCATOR SUMMIT

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The MEP will host its first annual Urban Educator Summit on October 15-16, 2019, at Cardinal Stritch University. The purpose of the summit is to present ideas from national and regional speakers regarding best practices and approaches for identifying and preparing educators who desire to serve in urban school districts. Planning is being coordinated with the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) and the University of Wisconsin System. Information detailing the agenda and invited speakers will be available in early August.

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