

Report of the Board's Delegate to the Milwaukee Education Partnership (MEP)

May 25, 2017

Submitted by President Mark Sain

(1) Meetings and conversations were held among the Milwaukee Education Partnership's (MEP's) Executive Director, Gerard Randall, and various individuals within and outside of the Partnership regarding education legislation, grants, partnerships, various initiatives and projects, updates, MEP's administrative business, and more.

(2) Mr. Randall met with the new President/CEO of the Bradley Foundation, Richard Graber, and shared information with him about the work of the MEP.

(3) Dr. Jeffrey Senese, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Stritch; Mr. Himanshu Parikh, Interim Chief of Human Resources at Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS); and Mr. Randall met to discuss Project Metro and ideas to support the enhancement of the program and greater participant outcomes.

(4) Mr. Randall met with County Executive Chris Abele's staff concerning the MEP's enhancement of the Milwaukee youth summer jobs initiative.

(5) Mr. Randall continues to have discussions with Ray Allen, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, regarding workforce-development initiatives, including summer youth employment.

(6) Mr. Randall participated in an external community meeting organized by UWM concerning the Call Me Mister site visit.

(7) Discussions and planning continued with the National Science Foundation's program officer and amongst internal partners concerning the potential bioscience initiative.

(8) Mr. Randall met with Laura Bray, Executive Director of the MATC Foundation, and Cheralyn Randall, Associate Vice President-Economic and Workforce Development & Grants at MATC, concerning his latest discussions with the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation regarding the potential grant opportunity for funding of a special scholarship initiative with local PK-16 partners.

(9) The liaison for the Upper Midwest Region of the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading conducted a conference call with regional participants. The meeting agenda included campaign updates, summer learning updates, and community updates on school readiness, attendance, parents, health, technology, and public housing. Issues for future meetings were also shared.

(10) Senator Lena Taylor's office hosted a meeting to gather input on planning a college fair. Bi-weekly planning meetings will continue for hosting a college fair this year that will include Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Mr. Randall, a representative from MPS, and others are on the planning team.

(11) MEP's fourth annual HBCU Conference was held April 24-26, 2017, at the InterContinental Milwaukee Hotel. There was a significant increase in HBCU participation — 29 senior representatives from 28 HBCU institutions, some repeat participants, and many new participants. HBCU participants included chancellors, presidents, deans, recruitment personnel, and other administrative and educational leaders.

- (a) In addition to the focus on the area of education, this year's conference included two new tracks of focus — engineering and health care.
- Education Track: Most HBCU work-group co-chairs were present to lead further work and discussion on the efforts of the six education work groups that are an active result of the HBCU conferences over the last several years and are addressing the MPS student-support pipeline, professional educator pipeline for HBCU graduates, professional development programs for MPS educators, faculty collaborations among HBCU and Milwaukee institutions, professional development opportunities for HBCU students, and a program directory.
 - During the education work group's sessions, progress was reviewed, next steps were discussed, and recommendations were brought forth for consideration and future action. Many good ideas and HBCU programs and collaborations were discussed that could potentially develop in future work.
 - Participants also toured several MPS schools (Riverside, Milwaukee High School of the Arts, Reagan, and Bradley Tech). The tours included room visits, information sharing, meeting with staff and students, and even live videoconferences with HBCU institutions which had been unable to attend the conference.
 - Engineering Track — HBCU engineering conference participants were given a tour of the UWM College of Engineering and Applied Science which included several of the labs, a program overview, and a presentation given by Dean Brett Peters, Dean and other engineering program leaders. Participants also toured the Global Water Center. Breakout sessions were held in which MEP goals — such as creating pipelines and research collaborations — were presented and discussed. Student preparedness in mathematics, teaching of best practices, teaching collaborations, and many other great ideas and potential collaborations were discussed. Lunches were also provided by tour hosts.
 - Health Care Track — HBCU health care conference participants were given a tour and an overview of the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) by Dr. John Raymond, President, and other MCW staff. Participants also had a tour of Columbia-St. Mary's Hospital and an overview of the Ascension Columbia College of Nursing, led by Reggie Newson, VP of Governmental Relations-Chief Advocacy Officer of Ascension WI, and other senior Ascension WI staff. Discussion was held on the needs and opportunities of the nursing workforce, as well as areas of potential collaboration, including clinical opportunities, faculty exchange and information-sharing opportunities, and workforce opportunities. Lunches were also provided by tour hosts.
- (b) Other activities for all conference participants included:
- a meeting with MPS Superintendent Dr. Darienne Driver and members of her senior team and a presentation, "Pathways to Diversity," shared by Dr. Tonya Adair, MPS Chief Innovation & Information Officer. The presentation focused on:
 - the demographics of MPS and Milwaukee;
 - data on the diversity of MPS staff and students;

- barriers to recruiting and hiring teachers;
 - instruction and support of new educators;
 - efforts to build the teacher pipeline; and
 - recruitment efforts.
- presentations by MPS’s and MATC’s Offices of Human Resources;
 - a presentation by Dr. Alan Shoho, Dean of UWM’s School of Education, on the Call Me Mister program;
 - tours of Milwaukee and MPS’s College & Career Center located at the Barack Obama School of Career & Technical Education;
 - an alumni reception for local HBCU alums to greet and mix with conference participants. Musical entertainment for this reception was provided by students from Milwaukee High School of the Arts. More than 100 were in attendance for this event; and
 - a panel discussion, “Enhancing the Pipeline & Partnerships between Milwaukee K-16 Education Institutions, Corporations, and HBCUs.” Panel speakers included Dr. Lisa Mims-Devezin, Chancellor of, Southern University at New Orleans; Dr. Tony Evers, State Superintendent, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; and Dr. Rogers Onick, President of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Alliance of Black School Educators (MMABSE). Local business and education leaders and all CESA #1 school district superintendents were also invited to attend this event. John Daniels, Chairman Emeritus of Quarles & Brady, gave a presentation on the MKE Fellows program.

(12) MEP Executive Partners participated in various sessions of the MEP’s HBCU Conference in lieu of their monthly meeting in April.

(13) Efforts are in progress to gain funding support for the HBCU Initiative going forward.

(14) Work continues to coordinate the activity to inform legislators of MEP Partners’ common needs.

(15) Work continues on the formation of articulation agreements between Lincoln University and MATC.

(16) The Early Education Task Force held its organizational meeting on April 24. The group discussed collaborating on a common birth-to-age-three early literacy initiative for Milwaukee. Regular meetings are scheduled going forward beginning in May.

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