

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

September 28, 2017

Submitted by President Mark Sain

(1) Meetings and conversations were held among the Milwaukee Education Partnership'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 administrative business, and more.

(2) Mr. Randall met with Kathleen Rinehart, Interim President of Cardinal Stritch University, and shared with her about the MEP. She will represent Stritch as MEP Executive Partner.

(3) Mr. Randall and Dr. Deborah Ford, Chancellor, UW-Parkside, had discussion about the Foxconn proposal and how it impacts upon the educational landscape of southeastern Wisconsin.

(4) Planning discussions and efforts to identify funding continued concerning the plan to hold a statewide summit of the deans of the schools of education. It was included in discussions with Jessica Tormey, Chief of Staff, University of Wisconsin System. Diversity issues were also discussed with Carl Hampton, Special Assistant to UW System President Ray Cross for Diversity & Inclusion.

(5) Dr. Tony Evers, State Superintendent of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, and Dr. John Raymond, President of the Medical College of Wisconsin, were invited to join the MEP as Executive Partners. Dr. Evers has accepted. The invitation to the Medical College of Wisconsin is to be considered by its Board of Directors.

(6) Mr. Randall met with staff of American Family regarding the MEP's Literacy Initiative with the Milwaukee Public Library Foundation. The letter of intent to apply for funding from American Family for the MEP's Literacy Initiative has been submitted.

(7) Members of the Brewer's Hill Neighborhood Association held a meeting, hosted by member Gerard Randall, to discuss ideas about what the Association could do to benefit Carver School scholars. The school principal also participated in the meeting.

- (8) Follow-up activities to the MEP's HBCU Conference are in progress. These currently include:
- (a) discussions with deans of the schools of engineering at several HBCUs with prominent engineering programs around collaborations with Milwaukee, and UW-Milwaukee in particular;
 - (b) discussions about how to connect HBCU students with Ascension for internships in healthcare.

(9) In follow-up to previous conversations about Johnson Controls' participation in the HBCU Initiative, Mr. Randall and Grady Crosby, Vice President of Public Affairs & Chief Diversity Officer of Johnson Controls, met for discussion on how the HBCUs can supply Johnson Controls and other engineering firms with their graduates in the same way in which we are providing educators who are graduates from HBCUs. Johnson Controls has agreed to be the primary business partner in the engineering component of the MEP's HBCU Initiative.

(10) A presentation was given at the August 4 meeting of the Governor's Task Force on Minority Unemployment concerning the work of the MEP with HBCUs.

- (11) Efforts continue to gain funding support for the HBCU Initiative/the 2018 HBCU Conference.

(12) Bi-weekly planning meetings with Senator Lena Taylor's office continued for the October 7 HBCU College Fair to be held at Vincent High School from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Over 75 HBCUs and Tribal Colleges will be in attendance. Alumni chapters are also invited to have tables at the event. Scholarship and pre-college program information will be available. Also to be included are panel discussions and a FAFSA information session. In addition, the College Access Center will be open for FAFSA help.

(13) The HBCU Sunday Planning Committee continued meeting and working on the October 1 HBCU Sunday event.

(a) Contact lists are being compiled, calls are being made, and communications and talking points are being developed.

(b) The MEP has acquired a media sponsor — the *Milwaukee Courier* newspaper and 860 Radio, including 106.5 FM. All will promote the event. Other advertising is being sought such as an announcement on the Tom Joiner morning show, which reaches the Racine/Kenosha area; an article in the HBCU Digest website publication; and other web presence, social media, and other networks such as the AKA Sorority and HBCU United.

(c) The MEP has acquired another partner for this endeavor — Milwaukee Film Festival. Its film, *Tell Them We Are Rising*, a story of the role of HBCUs in African-American history, will be showing at the Oriental Theatre on October 1 at 4 p.m. and October 5 at 6 p.m. and at the Times Cinema on October 6 at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased online at www.mkefilm.org. As an incentive, pairs of tickets will be provided to churches that participate in addressing their congregations on October 1 concerning the importance of HBCUs.

(d) There will also be two events free and open to the public which will be held following two of the film screenings:

BLACK LENS AND YOUTH EDUCATION

Sunday, October 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Good City Brewing (2108 N. Farwell Ave.)

How will Milwaukee-area youth be involved in the explosive growth of film in our region? Join our Black Lens partners John W. Daniels III and Jasmine M. Johnson, along with Black Lens Council members, for a special reception to unveil plans for film production among inner-city students of color.

SCHOOL DAZE: THE BLACK COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

Thursday, October 5, 8:00-10:00 p.m.

Colectivo Coffee Back Room (2211 N. Prospect Ave.)

An event that is equal parts critical discussion and social mixer as Milwaukee's own vibrant Historic Black Colleges & Universities alumni network is tapped into to discuss the *Tell Them We Are Rising* film, as well as other issues concerning film and television depictions of black colleges and universities.

(14) Efforts continued to identify a date for the Governor's Luncheon fundraiser to support UNCF scholarships for area students. Due to scheduling difficulties, the event will likely be held in April 2018.

(15) Tracey Sparrow, President of Next Door, and Mr. Randall engaged in planning for a visit to Milwaukee by The Literacy Lab to give a presentation on its Leading Men Fellowship Program currently active in Washington, DC. They are looking to expand the program in several other cities.

(16) The staff of MEP and Employ Milwaukee continued to work on a new grant initiative around workforce preparation through the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

(17) The Early Education Task Force continues to meet regularly. Tours were arranged for the Task Force to observe two Young-Star Rated Day Care/Reading Programs. One was at the Milwaukee Public Library, where impact of its Ready to Read Program was seen. The other was at Gan Ami early education site located at the Jewish Community Center.

(18) The Fellowship Open took place on August 18. The purpose of this initiative is to secure funding for Milwaukee-area youth programs.

(19) Mr. Randall participated in the Milwaukee Urban League's Equity & Excellence Project's Informational Session & Stakeholder Circle event on August 11 concerning a National Urban League initiative, the Equity & Excellence Project (EEP), which is planned for launch this year to engage the African-American community in education- reform efforts.

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