

Midwest Center for University- Assisted Community Schools

Year 2 Report

September 1, 2012-August 15, 2013

Director, Starla Officer

Co-Directors, Jim Grim & Monica Medina, Ph.D.

Overview

Year two of the Midwest Center for University-Assisted Community Schools has presented some potentially influential opportunities for the future of our work and that of the university-assisted community schools movement—particularly in Indiana. As outlined in the Activities and Achievements section of this report significant technical assistance and training, outreach and advocacy, and presentation and publication opportunities took place that directly reflect the mission of the Center.

Notable examples include:

- The second statewide Indiana Family/School/Community Engagement Policy Luncheon in November at Ivy Tech Community College and facilitated by Jane Quinn of the NYC Children’s Aid Society National Center for Community Schools drew 70 participants
- The Robert G. Bringle Civic Engagement Showcase and Symposium in April featured Dr. Henry Taylor as well as Joann Weeks about university/community engagement
- A coalition of university representatives/community school advocates are meeting regularly with Deputy Mayor Jason Kloth about addressing the necessary conditions for learning and related social justice issues; another group, the Indianapolis Community School Partnerships Coalition, of which the Midwest Center is a member, has formed and advocates for community schools including Indianapolis Public Schools as a community school district.
- Established a relationship with both the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and Marian University that led to respective trainings in July that could greatly influence our work and the community school movement statewide for the foreseeable future; Marty Blank of the Institute for Educational Leadership/Coalition for Community Schools participated in the IDOE training.
- Dr. Bob Bringle, Starla Officer, and Jim Grim presented at the Global Universities Network for Innovation International Conference at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in Barcelona, Spain, in May, highlighting the university relationship experience with George Washington Community High School
- Submitted a *Peabody Journal* article on university-assisted community schools titled “Strengthening Community Schools through University Partnerships” to be published in 2013

Meanwhile, the Midwest Center graduate assistant researched and helped to identify potential funding sources to consider in year three for sustainability of the Center. Alyssa Foreman, now the Assistant Director of Executive Education at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, identified likely candidates for funding proposals in 2014 to extend the Center’s work beyond the three-year University of Pennsylvania Netter Center for University Partnerships start-up grant. The Center for Urban and Multicultural Education in the IU School of Education-Indianapolis also has identified and plans to draft potential funding applications to supplement the work as well. Additional funding opportunities focus on the technical assistance and training provided to school communities and universities across the country. Potential examples include the Ogden, Utah, community schools/Promise Neighborhoods initiatives, Marian University Academy for Teaching and Learning Leadership future cohorts, and IDOE regional outreach summits, professional development activities, and program evaluation.

Activities/Achievements

As part of the Center's foundational activities including community education, technical assistance, researching the community schools model, and advocating for the community schools model, we have provided multiple opportunities for stakeholders of local and regional school communities to learn about the important engagement of university campuses with the neighborhoods where they exist. The following list highlights specific activities and achievements from the past year:

Community School Advocacy & Outreach

- Made community schools/Midwest Center presentation to After School Coalition of Indianapolis network meeting on January 8 at Kuncce Soccer Park facility
- Hosted professional development bus trip for 15 stakeholders interested in seeing the Evansville district-wide community schools. Facilitated by Assistant Supt. Cathy Gray and Evansville Community School staff on September 24
- Co-sponsored second statewide Indiana Family/School/Community Engagement Policy Luncheon facilitated by Jane Quinn of the NYC Children's Aid Society National Center for Community Schools on November 15, at Ivy Tech Community College-Indianapolis Fall Creek Parkway campus
- Continued participation in Community Schools Leadership Network of the Coalition for Community Schools; in addition to monthly conference calls, participated in DC meetings in December 2012, & January & June, 2013; met with staff of Rep. Andre Carson, Sen. Coats & Sen. Donnelly after the National Community School Awards ceremony on Capitol Hill on June 6, Education Day
- Worked with the new Indianapolis Community School Partnerships Coalition to advocate for community schools, coordination, and funding; previewed proposal to Indianapolis Public Schools Board Student/Parent/Community Engagement Committee on March 27; participated in a formal presentation on April 24
- Jim participated on the Coalition for Community Schools National Forum planning committee for the April 9-11 conference in Cincinnati
- Met with Ivy Tech Community College-Richmond Executive Director for External Affairs, Nancy Green, at a Ball State University meeting on April 10 and agreed to meet to discuss the Center and mutual interests at a later date (yet to be scheduled)
- Jim Grim & Nicole Oglesby of IUPUI-facilitated a Martindale/Brightwood FSCS initiative with Michael Brown, the IPS School Board Commissioner, on April 19; promoted community school districts and the role of Midwest Center
- Dr. Robert Bringle Center for Service & Learning Showcase featured Dr. Henry Taylor & Joann Weeks April 23 about university/community engagement

- Jim Grim, Dr. Khaula Murtadha, & Clark Lienemann from Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center were among a team of community school representatives from across the state organized by the United Way of Central Indiana who briefed new Indiana Superintendent Glenda Ritz about our work on May 1, at the Statehouse; recognized the Center's alignment with school improvement and an emphasis on school climate, Supt. Ritz invited the Midwest Center to participate in her new outreach efforts
- In collaboration with the Office of Neighborhood Partnerships, hosted Listening to Communities luncheon, discussion and focus groups at GWCHS on May 8; sponsored by Indiana Campus Compact and attended by 52 university and community individuals
- Continued to meet with Deputy Mayor for Education, Jason Kloth, and a coalition of community school and social justice advocates; facilitated by respected educator & former community school principal Carole Craig on May 23 & July 31
- Participated in Bridges to Success partnerships breakfast celebration June 12 at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis
- Starla, Jim & Monica participated in IDOE statewide school/community partners summit at Ben Davis High School on June 25
- Met with Debbie Zipes of the Indiana Afterschool Network about potential collaboration opportunities on July 31; Debbie suggested Ivy Tech Youth Credentials program and IAN March conference as consideration.

Technical Assistance & Training

- Continued participation on Central Indiana Talent Alliance (P20) Steering Team
- Continued consultations with community school coordinators in university-assisted initiatives and other interested stakeholders
- Worked with IPS Northwest Community H.S. on a potential community schools initiative; continued working with NAACP and Howe Community H.S. in strengthening parent and community engagement efforts
- "How to Organize and Strengthen Community Councils" training held to assist community school stakeholders in developing and strengthening community advisory councils for their school communities. When given an evaluation every participant said they would recommend this training to help others learn and build community councils. Every participant also indicated that other trainings and workshops related to community schools should be offered in the future. Trainings given on October 26 & 29
- Worked with 12 community school coordinators to address roles and responsibilities in Ogden (Utah) Public Schools on January 23-25; This is a Full-Service Community Schools and Promise Neighborhoods federal-funded district
- Provided "Engaging Diverse Cultures" training and workshop for 11 community school stakeholders on February 22

- "Community Schools Messaging" training held for 16 community schools stakeholders on March 18 at Indianapolis Legacy Center on Tech HS campus
- Hosted visit to GWCHS by two university-assisted community school representatives from Hawaii including Dr. Kay Fukuda of the University of Hawaii-Manoa on April 9; this was in conjunction with the National Afterschool Conference downtown on April 7-10; Jim Grim attended NAA conference
- Provided technical assistance June 5th via phone to Gisele Jones of Edison Learning in Gary, Indiana. She was interested in receiving tips on how to navigate a range of relationships in order to build her council and to get buy-in on community school strategies in her community.
- Provided "Exploring Diversity and Learning: Bridging communities and schools through successful relationships" training and workshop for 18 community school stakeholders. In the evaluation every participant indicated that this training met their professional expectations and they said they would take the information they learned back to their school and community. Training provided on June 17
- On June 17 the Midwest Center offered a workshop to train 7 community members to become new trainers in the Exploring Diversity and Learning curriculum from February 22
- Met with new Indiana Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction for Outreach, Teresa Brown on June 19. This meeting subsequently led to a training facilitated by Starla Officer, Jim Grim & Monica Medina of 13 new IDOE Outreach Coordinators for nine regions across the state on July 22-24; Marty Blank of the Coalition for Community Schools/ Institute for Educational Leadership led the training on July 24. This training provided community school strategies for a new state school improvement process focused on school climate and the necessary conditions for learning
- Jim Grim taught a School and Community Relationships intensive graduate course focused on family and community engagement on July 8-12 for the IU School of Education-Indianapolis; the online portion of the hybrid course began May 27
- Worked with Marian University to establish TA & training relationship with its new Academy for Teaching and Learning Leadership program that adapts university-assisted community school strategies; participated in formal kickoff dinner on July 17 and trained two local school communities teams on July 16-18 about establishing community councils & related community school strategies.
- Met with Maggie Stevens, Executive Director of Indiana Campus Compact on July 19th. She shared information on how the different campus compacts in our region engage with each other. She gave a good list of possible ways our Center can communicate and engage with both the state and regional network. There will be a series of activity including newsletter articles, presentations and meetings in year # with participating campuses.

Presentations

- Jim Grim, Monica Medina & Starla Officer facilitated a “Higher Education & Community Schools: Engaging University Assets in Developing and Sustaining University-Assisted Community Schools” workshop and presentation at the 8th Annual Illinois Community Schools Forum in Chicago on October 18 & 19
- Jim Grim discussed school and community engagement orientation and TA work of Midwest Center in Community Schools Leadership Network webinar presentation, “Supporting & Building Capacity of Community School Administrators,” co-facilitators with Kathy Dodd of Tulsa Area Community Schools Initiative and Diane Hall of SUN Community Schools in Portland, Oregon on March 27
- Dr. Bob Bringle, Starla Officer, and Jim Grim presented at the Global Universities Network for Innovation International Conference at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in Barcelona, Spain, on May 14; The presentation focused on the GWCHS/IUPUI Near Westside relationship experience. Presentation reflected the conference theme, “Let’s Build Transformative Knowledge to Drive Social Change”
- Jim Grim provided community school orientation overview on July 15 at Ivy Tech Community College; Starla Officer & Jim Grim participated in GWCHS faculty/staff/partners PD/training presentation on July 18 at Ivy Tech Community College
- Proposal for CUMU was accepted as a round table discussion for Year 3

Publications

- Submitted a Peabody Journal of Education article on university-assisted community schools titled, “ Strengthening Community Schools through University Partnerships” to be published in 2013
- Grim, Jim. (2013, February). Community Schools Help Strengthen Engagement. *Inside Indiana Business with Gerry Dick*. Retrieved from <http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/contributors.asp?ID=2510>
- Houser, Dr. John. (2013, May 27). Community School Study Demonstrates the Value of Community-Based Relationships. Center for Urban and Multicultural Education. *Coalition for Community Schools*. Retrieved from http://www.communityschools.org/indianapolis_community_school_study_demonstrates_the_value_of_community-based_relationships/
- PhD candidate from University of Wisconsin-Madison released dissertation entitled, *Repairers of Breach, Restorers of the Paths: Leadership for Urban High School Reform and Community Justice*, focused on the GWCHS and Nashville, Tenn., (community schools Starla, Jim & Monica worked with in June 2012), initiatives citing student and family “turnaround” gains by addressing the necessary conditions for learning as community high schools.

Additional Organizational Projects

- Marketing & Communications Plans drafted
- Ongoing research and application submission opportunities for sustainability funding
- In conjunction with the IU Communications and Marketing, created branding materials for all communication documents; created a marketing brochure