

Milwaukee Public Schools

January 19, 2011

GE Foundation grant to inspire new MPS work in math, science *Developing Futures grant to invest \$20.4 million over five years*

The futures of thousands of Milwaukee Public Schools students are to become brighter, as GE Foundation announces a five-year, \$20.4 million grant to the district. The investment will fund efforts to boost achievement in mathematics and science and help prepare children to compete in a world with fast-evolving technology and global competition.

“This is a significant investment that will make a huge difference in the academic lives of our children,” said MPS Superintendent Gregory E. Thornton. “The impact on the classroom will be immediately clear, but the impact on children’s lives will be seen in years to come, as students move on to seek employment in fields that will benefit from their preparation in core curricular areas.”

“With the GE Foundation support, we intend to expand on the approach used this school year to develop and implement the Comprehensive Literacy Plan,” said Chief Academic Officer Dr. Heidi Ramírez. “A variety of stakeholders and experts will be involved in planning and supporting a systemwide effort to ensure rigor in K-12 math and science instruction and bring innovative and effective practices to scale across all MPS schools. The effort promises to dramatically improve teacher and student learning.”



A number of local and national experts, higher education, business and community partners are also expected to support the work, as will parents, teachers and other school staff who will be involved in the districtwide planning process. The GE Foundation has provided for a rigorous evaluation of the work MPS will do with grant funds. MPS will add its own metrics for measuring progress.

Teachers, coaches and school leaders across the district will be asked to be involved in the planning effort, participate in professional development and communicate new expectations to students, parents and community members. “My expectation is that everyone will work hard to support improved teaching and learning across the district, and for all students,” said Superintendent Thornton.

The Milwaukee Public Schools district is the largest in the State of Wisconsin, serving approximately 82,000 children and their diverse needs through a system of 184 schools. For additional information, call MPS Communications Director Roseann St. Aubin, (414) 475-8237. Visit MPS on the Web at www.milwaukee.k12.wi.us



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