

Learning Network Universities in Partnership with Urban Schools

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What the Learning Network Is

- The Learning Network, launched in 2005, is an association of 30 universities that agreed to explore how the Teachers for a New Era design principles could contribute to the transformation of teacher education.
- The Network was funded by the Annenberg Foundation, with additional support from Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Purpose of the Documentation

- AED conducted site visits in 2008 to nine Learning Network universities actively pursuing change in teacher education along the lines of the TNE design principles.
- The purpose of the visits was to document evidence of institutional change in the preparation of teachers, focusing on one or more indicators of change at each site.

Three Partnerships

- Three of the nine universities selected for site visits have sustained long-term partnerships with neighboring urban school districts.
 - Jackson State University (Jackson, MS)
 - Montclair State University (Montclair, NJ)
 - UNC Greensboro (Greensboro, NC)
- The partnerships are fundamental to the change in progress at each university.

Jackson State University

- The Mississippi Learning Institute was established in 2004 to change literacy instruction and outcomes in the Jackson Public Schools and Jackson State University.
- MLI forged closer ties between the university and the school system through shared responsibility for the community's learning.

Jackson State University

- New Teacher Induction Program established to provide three years of structured support for pre-service and novice teachers.
- A collaborative team drawn from both Jackson State University and Jackson Public Schools developed the program.

Montclair State University

- Montclair State University maintains partnering relationships with 26 schools through the MSU Network for Educational Renewal (MSUNER).
- The collaborative promotes simultaneous renewal of schools and education of educators, with a focus on high-performing schools and urban districts.

Montclair State University

- *Partnership for Instructional Excellence and Quality (PIE-Q)*. Launched in 2004 by Montclair State University, Newark Public Schools, and the Newark Teachers Union.
- Seven high-performing elementary and secondary urban schools function as “testing labs” for new policies and programs.

University of North Carolina Greensboro

- The University-School Teacher Education Partnership launched by the University of North Carolina system in the 1990s to support continuous improvement of schools and university-based professional education programs, and their faculties.
- A systemic approach to renew and improve teacher preparation & professional development as well as school curriculum.

University of North Carolina Greensboro

- Wachovia Teacher Mentoring Network was established in 2006 to create a network of educational mentors in 16 school districts.
- Three goals are to increase retention of novice & mentor teachers, provide quality professional development for mentor teachers, & increase student achievement in novice teacher classrooms.

Preliminary Findings

- Leadership
- Communication
- Organizational Structures
- Clinical Settings
- Impact

Final Report July 2009

- June 5 meeting of representatives from nine universities to review these findings, assess the impact of the Learning Network, and propose next steps.
- The final report published in July 2009 will summarize the cross-case findings, reflect the deliberations of the conferees, and offer a final set of policy recommendations .