



## GradMinnesota Statewide Advisory Council

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Minnesota Department of Education, Conference Center A Room CC1&2

GradMinnesota <https://mnyouth.net/work/gradminnesota/>

### AGENDA

#### 9:00 Welcome, Introductions and Updates

Sarah Dixon, President and CEO. MN Alliance With Youth

Sarah provided an overview of GradMN Initiative and the Seven Recommendations

#### 9:20 Agenda Review

Phyllis Saltzman, Facilitator

#### 9:25 Subcommittee Reports – Minnesota Alliance With Youth Staff Members

- **Collective Impact**

Cammy Lehr indicated that the original list of 40 advisory council members has been expanded to a listserv that includes over 220 individuals representing over 100 different organizations.

- **Legislation & Advocacy**

Bailey Boelter – Minnesota Youth Council Omnibus Bill Summary (see PowerPoint)

- **Communication**

Kate Suchomel – TPT is creating an illustrated essay on Using Alternatives to Suspensions and Expulsions in collaboration with GradMN. Anticipated release date September, 2017

- **GradNation Communities in Minnesota**

Emily Kay- GradMN recognized the work of 4 coalitions of folks doing work in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Northfield to increase graduation rates and postsecondary success of youth. These coalitions each received stipends of \$1000 to meet specific needs. See GradMN August newsletter or the website for more information on these GradNation Communities in Minnesota.

- **Resource Library**

Daniel Martinson – Resource Library Video and Shareout & Feedback. A short animated video was created to enhance dissemination and use of materials located on the GradMinnesota on line Resource Library.

- Feedback from participants after viewing the video included:

- Nice and short!
- Like the icons
- Like the music



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- Suggest clarifying the “5 categories of information” piece; 5 categories under each recommendation?
- Still super impressed
- Emily and Daniel Rock! 😊
- Check accessibility for individuals with disabilities
- How can we get this message across to university education level professors and staff?
- Sound quality could be improved – sounds kind of hollow?

**9:40 Feature Topic – GradMinnesota Recommendation #3  
Increase Mentoring Throughout the State!**

**9:50 Guest Speaker: Michael Goar, President & CEO  
Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities**

- Introduction
  - Stretched resources, time etc, result in youth and teacher not having enough quality time together; there is a huge need in the community for mentorship
  - New meaning to the word “we” – meaning the collective community. There is a much greater role to play-and a greater chance of opportunity
  - Intentionality and identifying what works – is so important
- Impact
  - Mentoring can address gaps
  - High School graduation -> fundamentally it’s about this. Grad rates are tangible, measurable, and require accountability to improve
  - Match length: the longer the mentoring duration, the more positive the impact and outcome
  - Impact-about 5,000 people; 2500 young people, and thus 2500 mentors
  - Mentors get extensive and ongoing training, to help them develop cultural competency as well as to help them overcome a fear of interacting with young people; must commit to at least 1 full year
- Key Programs
  - Community-based mentoring
  - School-based mentoring – community mentors come into schools for a designated time
  - Education & Enrichment – includes career exposure, scholarships to 2-year institutions, trade schools, college visits
- Future Success
  - How do you **build**?
    - How do you enhance the 1:1 mentoring relationship and elevate it to make it more meaningful?
    - Working with Humphrey Institute to evaluate the current programming; focus on measurable impact and return on investment





- Infusing technology in the matching process moving forward while still being very intentional with mentor/mentee matching; reduces human hours, but maintaining qualitative features and intentionality
- Volunteering + Money = sustainability; in the past 3-4 months successful recruitment has doubled
- Issues & Innovation
  - Evolve to meet needs of youth and community
  - New matches in high schools, identifying incoming high school freshman and high-risk, and partner with local business partners for academic enrichment and social-emotional learning
  - Also looking into group mentoring, as not every young person wants a 1:1 mentoring relationship
  - Informal mentoring
  - Switch power dynamics: let the young people themselves interview the adults to be mentors. Empower the young people to make a decision on their own terms. "It's a privilege for you to be my mentor"
  - SES Education and "curriculum" to embed into mentorship and increase intentionality
  - E-mentoring, for individuals located too far away from Twin Cities area
  - Be aware of the use of language in conversation, aka "little/big," "mentor/mentee"
  - Traditional functionalist language may reinforce power; sponsor events to just discuss critical mentorship
- Expanding
  - Amplifying our voice, Telling our story
  - Broader collective approach is necessary; shared goal, serving the community in concert
  - Focus groups to gather information on how the work is perceived?

#### 10:20 Generate Action Ideas and Steps - Participants

- Need a systematic approach – we can be focusing on different projects/take different forms, but we ultimately all have the same end goal
- How many other organizations are focused around mentoring relationships and know of the GradMN Recommendation 3?
- GradMN – help to demystify the power dynamics of mentorship and help get a conversation started in regards to how mentoring is changing!
- What does the Greater Twin Cities area have in terms of a central institute or resource for mentorship (i.e. similar Wash U. in St. Louis, Portland State U.) that can act as a convener and central resource
- How do we continue to collaborate?





- Michael Goar will be meeting the author of Critical Mentoring -> possible future connection or follow-up?

## 10:50 Closure and Adjourn



**Thank you For Your Participation!**

### **GradMinnesota Mission & Vision**

GradMinnesota represents a collaborative effort of the multi-partisan GradNation campaign led by America's Promise Alliance, an innovative initiative that aims to end the nation's dropout crisis by the end of this decade. Our vision is that all young people in Minnesota will graduate from high school prepared for success in postsecondary opportunities, work, civic engagement, and life.

### **GradMinnesota Recommendations**

1. Ensure quality data is available and used
2. Effectively implement a tiered framework of supports
3. Increase mentoring throughout the state
4. Recover and re-engage youth
5. Implement alternatives to suspensions and expulsions
6. Make transportation accessible to all students
7. Provide alternative pathways to a diploma

### **GradMinnesota Advisory Council Meeting Schedule (once every 2 months)**

**[Typically held at] Minnesota Department of Education on Thursday, 9:00 -11:00 AM**

- 8/17/17 Recover and Re-engage Youth (Rec. #4)
- 10/19/17 Make Transportation Available to All Students (Rec #6)
- 12/14/17 Effectively Implement a Tiered Framework of Supports (Rec #2)



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