



## ***Office of Neighborhood Partnership News***

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As one of its first public activities, the **Center for University-Assisted Community Schools at IUPUI** co-hosted a Family, School, and Community Engagement Forum on November 7th with the Indiana Partnerships Center for 100 targeted policymakers and leaders in public education. Notable leaders state and national leaders engaged in a discussion moderated by [Martin J. Blank](#), Director of Coalition of Community Schools and [Anne T. Henderson](#), Senior Consultant at Annenberg Institute of School Reform. A variety of information was shared including the research brief "*Family, School, Community Engagement in Community Schools*", which you can read [HERE](#).

The conversations addressed the following questions:

- What does a) family and b) community engagement look like in a new era of education reform as we transform learning?
- How can federal, state and local stakeholders leverage existing and emerging legislation and programs to create systemic family and community engagement?
- How can educators and other stakeholders use data to connect families and schools in meaningful ways?

The forum is the first of four learning opportunities to be hosted by the regional center over the next year. Future events will be announced in this newsletter column in the coming months.

The Center for University-Assisted Community Schools at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) provides technical assistance and training for school communities and universities throughout the Midwest in developing and enhancing collaborative engagement. Drawing on IUPUI's 15-year engagement with community schools in the Indianapolis Near-Westside and more recently Martindale/Brightwood neighborhoods, the Center is a regional site for a university-assisted community schools national replication project of the Netter Center for Community Partnerships at the University of Pennsylvania.

The IUPUI Center for Service and Learning, Center for Urban and Multicultural Education, School of Education, and Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center (lead-partner for the George Washington Community H.S. community schools initiative) collaborate in leadership of the new regional Center. In partnership with business, service providers, and neighborhood organizations, university-assisted community schools draw upon higher education to assist local schools as support centers for youth, their families, and neighbors. The strategy recognizes public schools as neighborhood "hubs" where partners develop collaborative solutions to learning and youth development barriers and serves as an education reform strategy across the globe.

The replication project is expected to significantly advance the role of university-assisted community schools in national debates on education reform. For more information contact Jim Grim via email at [grimj@ips.k12.in.us](mailto:grimj@ips.k12.in.us) or Starla Officer via email at [officers@iupui.edu](mailto:officers@iupui.edu).