THEIR FUTURE. OUR FUTURE.

learning community
DOUGLAS SARPY

OPPORTUNITIES 2018
COMMUNITY REPORT

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MORE THAN 19,000 LIVES

WHERE'S THE CHALLENGE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES?

The Learning Community is here for children and families in your neighborhoods, your local schools and probably your workplace. Why? Times have changed. Nearly half of our families with school-age children face poverty.

Children and families show me every single day that the Learning Community is a catalyst for opportunities that change lives. Our priority programs – Learning Community Center of North Omaha, Learning Community Center of South Omaha, School District Pilots and the Superintendents' Early Childhood Plan are getting results.

How do we connect children and families to new opportunities? Great partners. The Learning Community partner network of eleven school districts and over 40 community organizations is amazing. We share a comprehensive, common-sense approach to innovation. You won't find more committed, caring partners anywhere else.

Your elected Coordinating Council invests in the strength of children and families. We want to share the results with you in this community report. Making a positive impact in the lives of more than 19,000 children, families and teachers is reason to celebrate!

"You won't find more committed, caring partners anywhere else."

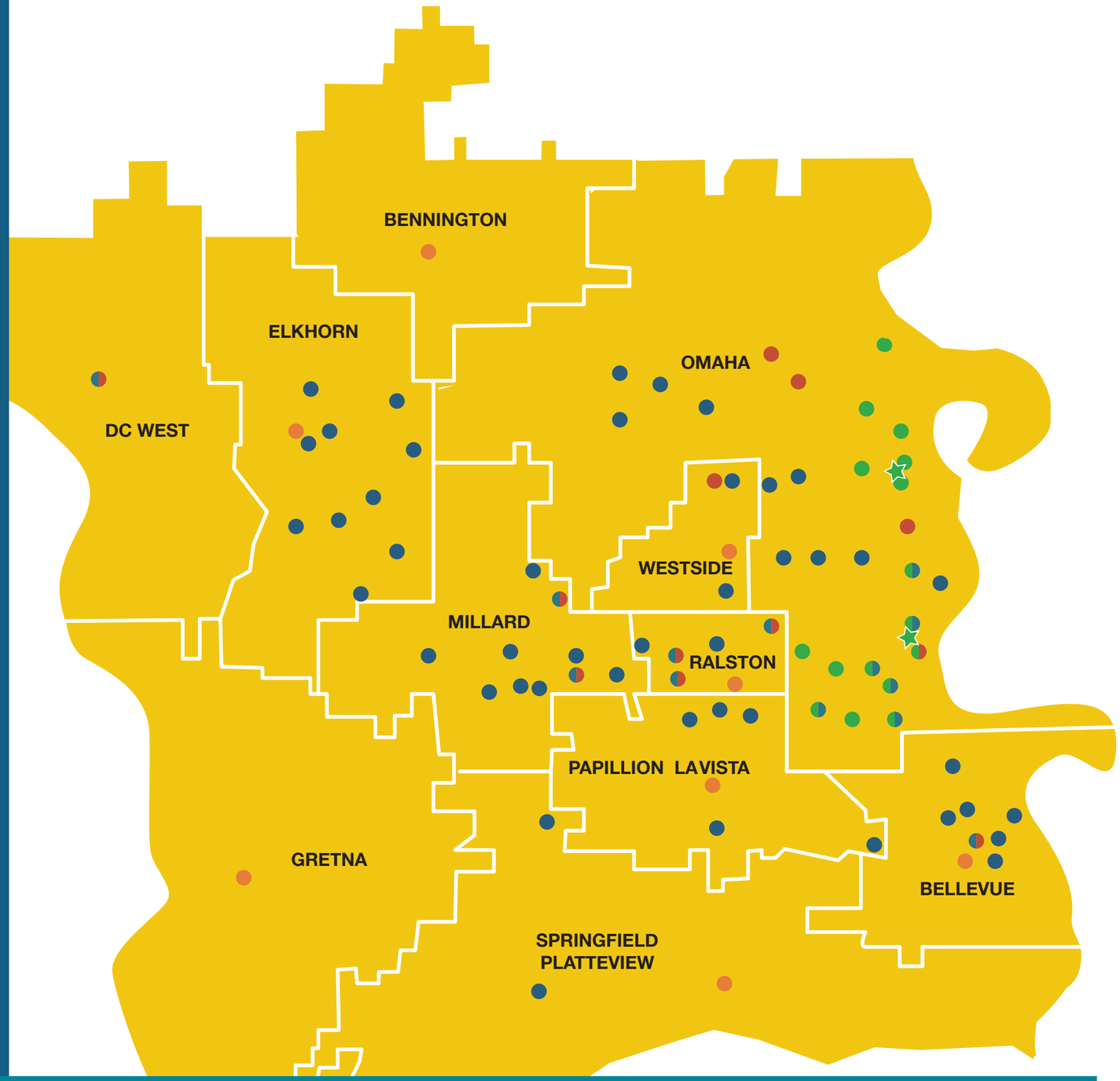
David Patton,
Chief Executive Officer

OUR MISSION

Together with school districts and community organizations as partners, we demonstrate, share and implement more effective practices to measurably improve educational outcomes for children and families in poverty.

“We’re all working together to create new and better opportunities in every school district. That’s the strength of the Learning Community and it’s only happening here.”

Lorraine Chang
Coordinating Council Chair



PROGRAM IMPACT
BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

LEARNING COMMUNITY CENTER

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS

OMAHA (north)
Conestoga
Franklin
Kellom
Lothrop
Minne Lusa
Skinner

OMAHA (south)
Ashland Park-Robbins
Castelar
Chandler View
Gomez Heritage
Gateway

Gilder
Highland
Indian Hill
Pawnee
Spring Lake

SUPERINTENDENTS’ PLAN SCHOOL SITES

OMAHA
Gomez Heritage
Pinewood
Liberty
Mount View

WESTSIDE
Westbrook

BELLEVUE
Belleaire

RALSTON
Karen Western
Meadows
Mockingbird

MILLARD
Cody
Sandoz

DC WEST
DC West

CUSTOMIZED ASSISTANCE BY DISTRICT

Bellevue
Bennington
Elkhorn
Gretna
Papillion La Vista
Ralston
Springfield Platteview
Westside

DISTRICT PILOTS

OMAHA
Bancroft
Beals
Belle Ryan
Boyd
Castelar
Chandler View
Field Club
Harrison
Highland
Indian Hill
Masters
Pawnee
Prairie Wind
Spring Lake
Sunny Slope
Western Hills

WESTSIDE
Hillside
Westgate

RALSTON
Blumfield
Karen Western
Meadows
Mockingbird
Seymour

BELLEVUE
Avery
Belleaire
Bertha Barber
Betz
Birchcrest
Central
Twin Ridge

PAPILLION LA VISTA
Carriage Hill
G. Stanley Hall
Golden Hills
Parkview Heights
La Vista West

MILLARD
Bryan
Cody
Disney
Holling Heights
Montclair
Neihardt
Norris
Rockwell
Sandoz
Willowdale

ELKHORN
Arbor View
Fire Ridge
Hillrise
Manchester
Sagewood
Skyline
Spring Ridge
West Bay
West Dodge Station
Westridge

DC WEST
DC West

SPRINGFIELD PLATTEVIEW
Springfield
Westmont

WHAT'S THE CHALLENGE?

Nearly one out of every two children in poverty? It's true. Think about what that means in an Omaha metropolitan area with over 120,000 public school students. At the same time, more families struggle to navigate our school systems as they experience a new culture and language. Last year alone, English Language Learners in our schools increased a staggering 25%.

POVERTY

45 PERCENT *

UP 30% SINCE 2000 **50,957** STUDENTS

ELL STUDENTS

13 PERCENT **

UP OVER 100% SINCE 2000 **11,000** ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

CHILD TRAUMA

20 PERCENT

1 OUT OF 5 CHILDREN EXPERIENCE SIGNIFICANT ADVERSITY

*2000-2017. K-6 FRL and ELL, Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties, 2016-2017, Nebraska Dept. of Education; ACES Connection, 2018; Adverse Childhood Experiences, Nebraska children, National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH).

**2000-2017. NeSA Math, grade 3, Nebraska Dept of Education. Bracken School Readiness Assessment, Learning Community Annual Evaluation 2016-2017, UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute.

BIG NUMBERS ADD UP TO AN OPPORTUNITY GAP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

THE 2-GEN TRANSFORMATION

We take a two-generation approach to make sure that our programs get the best possible results for children and families. Everyone learns when home, school, workforce and community CONNECT together.

DID YOU KNOW?

80 percent of a child's waking hours from kindergarten through graduation are outside of school. It's important that we value all of the learning opportunities for children and families.

LEARNING COMMUNITY CENTER OF SOUTH OMAHA

FAMILY LEARNING IS A WIN-WIN

1,351 CHILDREN & FAMILIES

PROGRAMS:

ENGLISH FOR PARENTS
EDUCATIONAL NAVIGATORS
PARENT WORKSHOPS
PARENT-CHILD ACTIVITIES

HELPING PARENTS HELP THEIR CHILDREN

In our South Omaha center, families go the extra mile for their children. That means parents are in class up to seven hours every week. Independent evaluations confirm the results we see every day — children and parents succeeding together.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ONEWORLD COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

ASCEND
THE ASPEN INSTITUTE NETWORK MEMBER

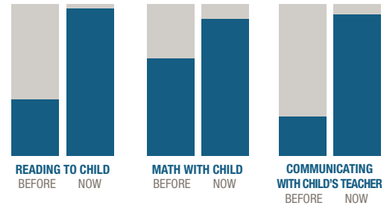
ENGLISH FOR PARENTS

Our teaching team knows English is more than a second language. It's a family language. It doesn't take long before parents find they can join conversations in almost any setting.

PARENTS MOVED FROM BEGINNING TO ADVANCED ENGLISH IN 2-3 YEARS

SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

Parents reported feeling more comfortable engaging with academics and their local school.



PARENTING FOR SUCCESS

Parents learn practical strategies in Common Sense Parenting classes. In every category, parents moved to a higher level. That's how children succeed in school.

PARENT IMPACT

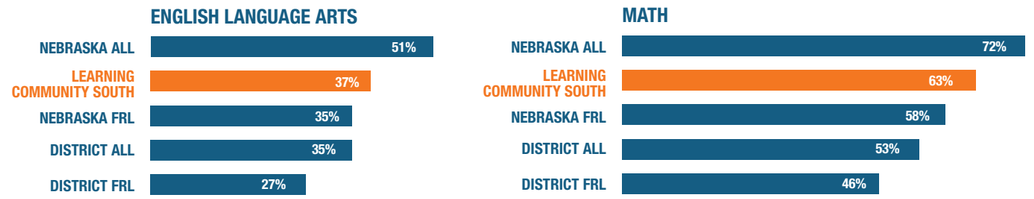
Resulted in positive impact on parenting practices.

REDUCING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

Where do we see the 2-Gen difference when a parent and child complete Family Learning? Evaluators compared third graders side by side. Learning Community South students had higher school attendance and higher scores.

THAT'S AN ACCOMPLISHMENT!

STUDENT **NESA SCORES EXCEEDED COMPARABLE STUDENTS** IN THE STATE OF **NEBRASKA**



LEARNING COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTH OMAHA

EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

2,330

CHILDREN, FAMILIES & TEACHERS

PROGRAMS:

INTENSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

CHILDCARE DIRECTOR TRAINING

FUTURE TEACHER TRAINING

PARENT UNIVERSITY

Our North community center is home base for a comprehensive partnership with coaching, training and free classes for the caring adults in every child's life. Our programs connect families, teaching teams, community childcare providers and future teachers.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASCEND
THE ASPEN INSTITUTE NETWORK MEMBER

INTENSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHERS

TOP 10% HEAD START NATIONAL RANKINGS

TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS

EARLY CHILDHOOD QUALITY COUNTS

Teacher coaching and quality classrooms make all the difference for preschoolers.

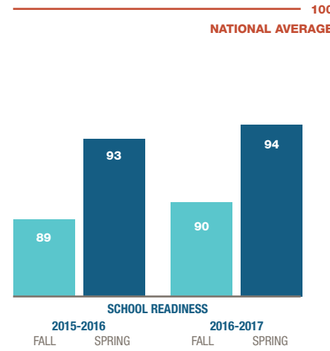
CHILD IMPACT

Teaching teams met the scores for impact with improvement for four consecutive years.

TEACHING TEAMS GAINED 22%

SCHOOL READINESS

Preschoolers made significant gains in school readiness.

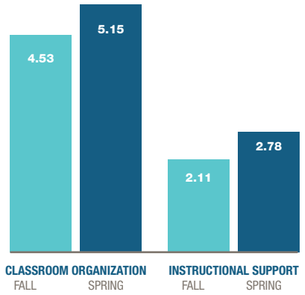


CHILDCARE DIRECTOR TRAINING

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NEBRASKA EARLY CHILDHOOD COLLABORATIVE

This pilot program in North Omaha successfully improves the quality of early learning by coaching the directors of community-based child care centers.

In less than one year, every childcare director joined Nebraska Step Up to Quality, the statewide initiative for quality childcare.



CHILDREN SERVED
500+

POSITIVE IMPACT
TEACHER-CHILD INTERACTIONS
67%

STEP UP TO QUALITY PARTICIPATION SOARED
100%

FUTURE TEACHER TRAINING

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EDUCARE, METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

Our community needs more early childhood teachers, better prepared for high poverty schools. MCC classrooms in our north center connect to multi-cultural preschool settings. College students gained confidence and skills with coaching from faculty and teaching teams.

A SEAMLESS TRANSITION TO A 4-YEAR TEACHING DEGREE

A partnership between Metropolitan Community College and Creighton University offers a unique path to an Elementary Education degree with an Early Childhood endorsement. MCC Early Childhood graduates who qualify enter CU as juniors. Successful students are ready for their own classroom in just over two years.

STUDENT RATINGS CONFIRM GRADUATES FEEL CONFIDENT AND PREPARED.

ON-SITE FACULTY COACHING
75%

CLASSROOM CONFIDENCE
83%

TEACHER PIPELINE
24
GRADUATES

PARENT UNIVERSITY

89% **POVERTY**

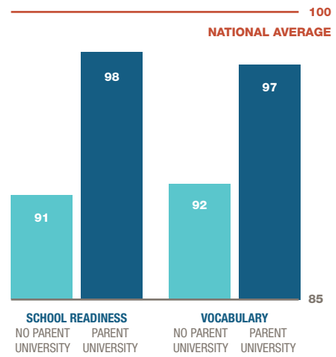
33% **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS**

35% **NO HIGH SCHOOL OR GED**

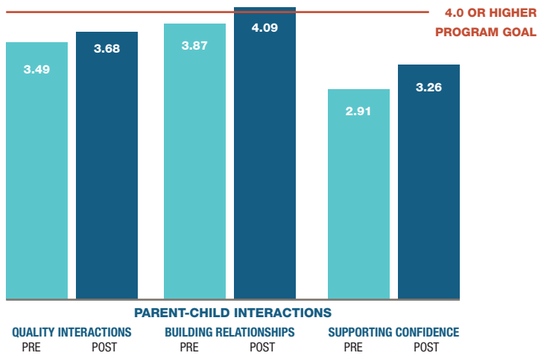
The growing Parent University community connects to teaching teams in six local schools. Family memberships include more than 130 classes and a Family Resource Center with computers and lots of take-home learning activities.

PARENT UNIVERSITY CHILDREN IMPROVE READINESS

Family participation and strong school-parent partnerships go hand in hand. Results show student gains are even greater with family memberships in Parent University.



BIGGER GAINS IN SCHOOL READINESS & VOCABULARY



PARENT UNIVERSITY FAMILIES BUILD SKILLS

Parents made positive progress to support their child's success in school.

FAMILIES IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY IN KEY AREAS.

SCHOOL DISTRICT PILOTS

10,805 STUDENTS & TEACHERS

10 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

50 SCHOOL BUILDINGS

PROGRAMS:

INSTRUCTIONAL COACHING

JUMP START TO KINDERGARTEN

EXTENDED LEARNING

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LEARNING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS DISTRICTS

INSTRUCTIONAL COACHING

BELLEVUE, OMAHA, WESTSIDE, RALSTON

Many school districts have come to value instructional coaches since this pilot was introduced in 2012. Independent evaluation results vary by district, but reflect the value of teacher-coach relationships.

POSITIVE TEACHER-COACH RELATIONSHIP
90%

POSITIVE IMPACT ON TEACHING
76%

JUMP START TO KINDERGARTEN

ELKHORN, MILLARD, OMAHA, PAPILLION LA VISTA

Students from four school districts improved in School Readiness and important concepts for learning. In a new survey, parents gave Jump Start to Kindergarten high ratings.

PARENT SATISFACTION
96%

EXTENDED LEARNING

DC WEST, COMPLETELY KIDS, ELKHORN, MILLARD, SPRINGFIELD PLATTEVIEW

School districts implement Extended Learning to meet a range of student needs. In summer school, the program helps students avoid “learning loss”. During the school year, extra support helps struggling students close the gap. The majority of students either improved or maintained achievement levels.

ACHIEVEMENT MAINTAINED OR IMPROVED

READING
50-64%

MATH
42-67%

SUPERINTENDENTS' PLAN

PROMISING RESULTS

4,791

STUDENTS, FAMILIES & TEACHERS

FEATURES:

BIRTH TO GRADE 3 APPROACH

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL

CUSTOMIZED ASSISTANCE

Eleven school districts are working together to improve early learning across the Omaha metro area. The Superintendents' Plan is the nation's largest, most comprehensive early childhood initiative. The goal is to reduce income- and race-based achievement gaps among young children.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BUFFETT EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTE & LEARNING COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

PD FOR ALL 11 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

A series of professional learning institutes shared research and best practices to promote a child's academic and intellectual growth. Participation increased over last year and included staff from school districts, community child care and non-profit organizations.

PARTICIPANTS
1080

PARTICIPATION INCREASED
23%

RATINGS OUT OF 4.0
3.3 TO 3.9

HOME VISITATION IMPACT

The school is becoming a hub as young families build relationships in their local schools. More than half the parents participating in home visits relayed positive experiences about the practical and emotional benefits.

HIGH LEVEL SOCIAL SUPPORT
62%

HIGH LEVEL CONCRETE SUPPORT
53%

CHILDREN AND TEACHERS GAINED

From preschool through Grade 1, children improved in vocabulary and general academic skills. Their teachers also increased classroom quality in three key areas. The biggest gain came in Instructional Support.

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT K-3 INCREASE
20%

COORDINATING COUNCIL

The Council invests in research-based programs and practices to change lives. Programs must demonstrate strong and measurable impact for continued funding.

LORRAINE CHANG
Chair
Achievement Subcouncil 3

SUSAN KELLEY
Vice Chair
Achievement Subcouncil 4

NANCY JACOBSON
Secretary
Achievement Subcouncil 1

CAROL HAHN
Treasurer
Achievement Subcouncil 2

JEANNE ANDERSON
Achievement Subcouncil 1

DR. CORNELIUS WILLIAMS
Achievement Subcouncil 2

JACK HEIDEL
Achievement Subcouncil 3

ALLEN HAGER
Achievement Subcouncil 4

D. PAUL HARTNETT
Achievement Subcouncil 5

TONYA WARD
Achievement Subcouncil 5

JILL WOODWARD
Achievement Subcouncil 6

MIKE AVERY
Achievement Subcouncil 6

OUR VISION

That all children within the Learning Community achieve academic success without regard to social or economic circumstance.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

DAVID PATTON
Chief Executive Officer

JAMALIA PARKER
Director Family Engagement Services

ANNE O'HARA
Program Director Family Learning

DAVID MOON
Finance Director

RENEE FRANKLIN
Executive Director Elementary Learning Centers

learning community
DOUGLAS SARPY

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402-964-2405 | **LearningCommunityDS.org**

"It is never to late to learn. I want my children to be successful. I want them to graduate from college, and work for this country."

Blanca Lopez
Learning Community parent