

Preliminary Memorandum of Understanding

Improving Rural Appalachian Communities a Berea College Promise Neighborhood

SUBJECT: Berea College Promise Neighborhood Program

1. The undersigned partners are committed to the effective implementation of the U.S. Department of Education Promise Neighborhood Program.
2. The undersigned partners compose the Improving Rural Appalachian Communities Promise Neighborhood Management Board (Management Board).
3. The Management Board shall be the governance board of the Promise Neighborhood.
4. The Management Board includes representation from residents of the Promise Neighborhood. Recognizing that the resident's voice is critical planning an effective Promise Neighborhood. Sixty-four percent of the members (seven of eleven members) of the Management Board are residents of the Neighborhood. The Management Board contains representatives from the following organizations: Berea College, the Collaborative for Teaching and Learning, the Kentucky Folklife Program, the Cumberland Valley District Health Department, Jackson County Schools, Clay County Schools, Owsley County Schools. In addition, the Management Board includes two parents of students attending public school in the Promise Neighborhood and one community member with a background in local arts and culture.
5. The coordination and administrative support of the Management Board will be provided by Berea College. Berea College is the lead applicant and shall serve as the fiscal agent for the Promise Neighborhood.
6. Partners were carefully selected. Each of the undersigned partner's vision, theory of change, theory of action and existing activities align with the proposed Improving Rural Appalachian

Communities Promise Neighborhood project.

7. All partners are committed to a theory of change that is inclusive of all voices within the community, which is centered on the recognition of the value of place and culture in community change, and that vests ownership of change within the community.
8. Upon receipt of funding, Berea College will work with the undersigned partners to refine the project plan, timeline for implementation and partner responsibilities.
9. This commitment is effective for the project period: September 1, 2010 – August 31, 2011.



[Handwritten Signature]
Dreana Gentry, J.D.

6-24-10

Date

Berea College is the Lead Applicant. See attached letter under Match Appendix for details on the

Berea College support of the Promise Neighborhood Program

Berea College

The Loyal Jones Appalachian Center works to give concentrated leadership to Berea's Appalachian activities, stimulate student and scholarly interest, bring together existing outreach programs and guide the creation of new services, relate Berea College's efforts to those of other Appalachian institutions, and serve the nation as a source of information about the Appalachian Region.

Chad Berry, Ph.D., is the Director of the Loyal Jones Appalachian Center, Goode Professor of Appalachian Studies and Professor of History. Berry also has a strong background in southern African history, international education, and general education. Berry brings to the Center a commitment to making the Center more student-focused and to continuing the integration and strengthening of Berea's Appalachian programs begun in 1999.

Dr. Berry is engaged with Appalachian schools and teachers in our Neighborhood through the Teaching American History program. He is an award-winning teacher, a nationally-recognized expert in teaching history with visual images, and a pioneer in the use of digital story-telling in the history classroom.

Dr. Berry will serve on the Leadership team, serve on the Management Board, bring to the group many years of working with and studying Appalachia and its communities, engage Berea College faculty, staff and students with the Promise Neighborhood project, make available the Appalachian Artifacts and Exhibits Collection as a resource for schools and community groups in the Promise Neighborhood, and arrange for Appalachian residencies for writers, artists, and scholars in schools and community organizations in the Promise Neighborhood.



Chad Berry,
Director, Loyal Jones Appalachian Center

6/23/10

Date

Collaborative for Teaching and Learning

The Collaborative for Teaching and Learning (CTL) is a non-profit 501 (C) (3) that helps schools, school districts, post-secondary institutions, and other learning organizations to reach and teach all learners. CTL has worked extensively with GEAR UP Kentucky and the GEAR UP partnership projects around issues of classroom rigor, school culture and leadership to increase student achievement and college going. CTL is a leading partner in a federal Striving Readers project—one of eight in the country and the only one to focus on rural schools—aimed at developing a tested school wide model for literacy development that supports student mastery in all content areas, addresses school leadership and school culture, and helps build an infrastructure for sustainability. CTL has significant experience in arts education and integration, and has worked on behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to assess the efficacy of school arts and humanities instruction and student results. Moreover, CTL is a subcontractor for the federal Regional Education Lab – Appalachia and as such works regularly to bring research applications to solve school achievement issues. These and other experiences will enable CTL to work with local stakeholders to build a continuum of solutions to persistent problems of school underperformance and to lack of connection between community supports and the schools.

CTL will take the lead on data collection and analysis, including the instructional walk-throughs within each school, and will conduct the small scale literacy and arts pilots. Deborah Walker, Ed.D., President and CEO of the Collaborative for Teaching and Learning will serve on the Management Board.



Deborah Walker, Ed.D
President and CEO, CTL

June 22, 2010
Date

Kentucky Folklife Program

An interagency program of the Kentucky Historical Society and the Kentucky Arts Council, the Kentucky Folklife Program (KFP) identifies, documents, conserves and presents the commonwealth's diverse cultural traditions, generally referred to as folklife.

KFP will assist the Promise Neighborhood Program in securing two Folklorists and three Community Scholars to explore the three-county Promise Neighborhood—Clay, Jackson, and Owsley Counties—to determine and document local art, cultural, and living traditions and to establish a better sense of their contexts. KFP will also conduct the initial training and orientation for the Community Scholars and conduct check-ins throughout the documentation period.

Contingent upon funding of the project, I hereby agree to serve on the Promise Neighborhood Management Board.



Bob Gates, Director
Kentucky Folklife Program

6/22/2010
Date

Cumberland Valley District Health Department

J.J.

P O Box 1269 – 103 Chera Lyn Lane – London, Kentucky 40743
Phone 606-864-4764 – FAX 606-864-3732

The Cumberland Valley District Health Department

Serving more than 120,000 residents in Appalachian Kentucky including Clay and Jackson counties, The Cumberland Valley District Health Department provides clinic, home health, environmental, and school health services, as well as many specialized individual and population-based health programs. Our vision is “To be a healthy community where community members can enjoy optimal quality of health in a clean, safe environment, be protected from public health threats, and have complete access to high quality health care.”

The Cumberland Valley District Health Department will provide data and information on health issues and needs of residents in our Promise Neighborhood, assist in pulling together focus groups for community members around health issues, and provide research on best practices for improving health in Appalachian communities. Lynnett Renner, Director of Nutrition Services and a resident of the Promise Neighborhood, will serve as our representative on the Management Board of the Promise Neighborhood.


Lynnett Renner, MS, RD, LD
Director of Nutrition Services
Cumberland Valley District Health Dept.

6/23/2010
Date



Clay County School District

The Clay County School District is a rural local education agency. In our school district, 30% of our students qualify for free and reduced lunch. Our vision is that "ALL students will learn because of what WE do." All stakeholders—students, teachers, staff, parents, business and community members—have something to offer in holding ALL students to high levels of learning.

The Clay County School District will provide access to student-level and school-level data, provide access for teachers to participate in professional development, open all schools within the district for educational assessments and walk-throughs, participate in district- and school-level leader focus groups and planning sessions, make space available within the high school for a college coach, and assist in piloting literacy and arts programs. Susan Burgan, a district leader, will serve on the Promise Neighborhood Management Board.



Susan Burgan
Clay County Federal Programs
Resident of Promise Neighborhood

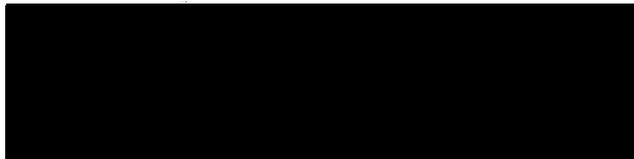
6/23/10
Date

Jackson County School District

The Jackson County School District is a rural local education agency. In our school district, 78% of our students qualify for free and reduced lunch.

Our vision is that "We, the stakeholders of the Jackson County School District, accept the responsibility to create lifelong learners and successful citizens by providing an exemplary instructional environment characterized by high academic standards and expectations that accommodate the individualized learning needs of all students."

The Jackson County School District will provide access to student-level and school-level data, make its teachers available for professional development, open all schools within the district for educational assessments and walk-throughs, participate in district- and school-level leader focus groups and planning sessions, make space available within the high school for a college coach, and assist in piloting literacy and arts programs. Loretta Gilbert, a district leader, will serve on the Promise Neighborhood Management Board.



Ralph Hoskins, Superintendent
Jackson County Public Schools
Resident of Promise Neighborhood

Owsley County School District

The Owsley County School District is a rural local education agency. In our school district, 89% of our students qualify for free and reduced lunch.

Our vision is that "Owsley County Schools, in partnership with the families, students, and community, shall ensure the opportunity for a high quality education for each student in a safe, nurturing environment."

The Owsley County School District will provide access to student-level and school-level data, make its teachers available for professional development, open all schools within the district for educational assessments and walk-throughs, participate in district- and school-level leader focus groups and planning sessions, make space available within the high school for a college coach, and assist in piloting literacy and arts programs. Melinda Turner, a district leader, will serve on the Promise Neighborhood Management Board.



Melinda Turner,
Superintendent
Resident of Promise Neighborhood

6/22/10

Date

Parent Representatives

Parents are an integral part of the education process. Engaged parents are key. The parent voice is critical to educational planning process. We are engaging parents as members of the Promise Neighborhood Management Board to ensure that the voices of parents is heard.

Robert and Karen Greer, residents of Promise Neighborhood, will serve as our Parent Representatives. They are the parents of Kassandra and Kristina Greer-- an 11th grader and a 10th grader at Jackson County High School - and Kristopher Greer--a 7th grader at Jackson



Robert Greer
Parent Representative

6-23-2010
Date



Karen Greer
Parent Representative

6-23-2010
Date

11.

Community Scholars

The Community Scholars are individuals interested in documentation and promotion of community culture, folklife, and traditional arts. It is administered by the Kentucky Folklife Program (KFP), an interagency program of the Kentucky Arts Council (KAC) and the Kentucky Historical Society (KHS), in partnership with the Folk Studies Graduate Program of Western Kentucky University and communities across the state.

Judy Sizemore, Community Scholar and resident of the Promise Neighborhood, will serve on the Management Board of the Promise Neighborhood. Ms. Sizemore has extensive experience engaging communities in planning. She developed Community Leaders in Preservation, a curriculum for teaching community people how to use the tools of the preservationist for community projects. She has conducted ethnographic interviews with Latino residents of Laurel County (KY) as part of a multicultural folk tradition education program funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. She has coordinated the collection of oral histories and publication of community heritage books in 20 communities. Her teacher resource guide on Appalachian culture has been published by the Jesse Stuart Foundation.

Ms. Sizemore will lead other Community Scholars and assist them as they explore, interview and document artistic and cultural elements found in the Promise Neighborhood. Their research and documentation will provide a foundation for building a continuum of solutions in the arts and humanities that honors local culture and informs the educational experiences in the schools and communities ensuring that the forms of expression are culturally relevant.

[Redacted Signature]

Judy Sizemore
Community Scholar

6/24/2010
Date