Minority Student Achievement Network
MSAN Monthly, November 2017

Hello MSAN Educators!
In this edition of the MSAN Monthly, we highlight the student scholars who participated in the 2017 MSAN Student Conference; celebrate the work of our incredible Student Conference Chaperones team, who are the backbone of the event; and share two resources--a publication on student leadership development, and a quick online quiz that can be used as a jumping-off point for professional learning about educational equity. We also want to encourage you to attend our upcoming webinar on developing MSAN programming at the middle school level. There is so much to learn from our students, our educators, and the researchers committed to closing opportunity gaps and the many ways they manifest in our schools!

Equity in Action
MSAN Student Conference 2017: Fighting Our Cause, Unified in the Struggle (F.O.C.U.S.)
MSAN would like to recognize the almost 300 students, chaperones, volunteers, and district officials who attended the 2017 MSAN Student Conference hosted by Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District. At this year's conference, student and staff participants from 21 MSAN districts explored issues of equity and student achievement through college visits to Kent State, Cleveland State, and Case Western Reserve universities, keynote speeches from Jeff Johnson and Jamie Almanzán, and developing Action Plans for educational equity work in their districts. **THANK YOU** to all who made the 18th annual MSAN Student Conference a success; in particular, a special thanks to the Cleveland Heights-University Heights MSAN Advisors **Shawn Washington, Nathan Williams, and O'Dasha Blue.**

In the words of a few of our conference participants, **highlights of the event** included:
- "Getting to know my fellow peers as well as my chaperones on a deeper level was extremely meaningful and gives me hope for our school's progress."

- "Being able to brainstorm and have deep conversations with other students that shared similar ideas about ways to improve this world we live in for ourselves and generations ahead."

- "Seeing so many students lead and network with each other. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting with other staff and faculty of other MSAN districts, and learning what their schools do to work for racial equity."

For a glimpse into the power of the MSAN Student Conference, check out the conference website, which includes the program, the conference reading materials, and the end-of-conference video. Please also see the great coverage that the conference received on Cleveland.com!

Leadership Spotlight
MSAN Student Conference Chaperones
Student Conference Chaperones from MSAN districts work hard before, during, and after the conference to ensure a successful conference experience for all. **Before the conference,** chaperones are recruiting students to attend the conference, studying the pre-conference handbook and readings with students and their families, collecting data sets on racial opportunity and achievement gaps in their districts to be used during the action planning portion of the conference, and working with their district point person to complete conference registration, travel plans, and hotel reservations. **During the conference,** chaperones are monitoring student participation and

engagement, staying in touch with colleagues and families back home, and leading the Action Planning process for their district teams. **After the conference,** chaperones are collaborating with colleagues to implement action plans, participating in scheduled MSAN Student Conference Chaperones PLC check-ins, and planning for the following year!

Thank you to the 2017 MSAN Student Conference Chaperones: **Elizabeth Aaron, Ebrahim Amara, Gevik Anbarchian, Ceci Anderson, Marlow Artis, Jorge Ávalos, Kristina Avant, Caroline Benjamin, Erin Blette, O'Dasha Blue, Andrea Bonaparte, Hannah Bowman Hrasky, Kaitlin Bresnahan, JoAnne Brown, Tyrone Byrd, Matt Case, Lorie Clark, Justin Cousin, Mary Custard, Gloria Davis, Sean Gray, Carla Green, Julian Gudger, Carri Hale, Shawn Harris, Marcia Hicks, Antonio Hoye, Daniel Huddleston, Pat Hurley, Clifton Jones, Lenora Keel, Judy Kehler, Sheldon Lanier, Ivan Lopez, Diana Lygas, Leslie Martin, Gabriel McCormick, Hubert McIntyre, John Milton, Kirk Moyers, Hannah Nerenhausen, Tara Newton, Karen Perez-Wilson, Andrea Riles, Jeremy Robinson, Verynda Stroughter, Jennifer Taylor, Nicole Toepfer, Katy Topp, Ana Urian, Shawn Washington, La Wanna Wells, Chad Whalley, Thomas Whitaker, Geoff Wickersham, Kelsey Wiley, Nate Williams, Tracy Williams, Corey Winchester, and Ta'Rhonda Woods.**

Research You Can Use
Youth Organizing for Educational Change: A Key Strategy for Influencing Policy and Practice
Research suggests that youth organizing can have a positive impact on young people's skill development, sense of agency, and level of community involvement. This publication from The Forum for Youth Investment, *Youth Organizing for Educational Change,* shares seven case studies of youth agencies that successfully organized youth to engage in organizational change, and identifies key strategies that are common across the agencies studied:
- Leadership Development: building leadership among those most affected by issues.
- Holistic Development: meeting the range of needs that young organizers bring.
- Campaign Development: skill building and political education.

For more articles and research on youth leadership, check out this archive from youthtoday.org, which includes resources about youth-led research at the John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities at Stanford University.

Professional Development
Online Quiz: *How Much Do You Know About Achievement Gaps in Schools?*
Check out this quick and easy online quiz from EdWeek and Apex Learning that can be used as a starting point for discussions on such questions as: what does the Every Student Succeeds Act say about advanced achievement data? How are English language learners represented in gifted education programs? And what areas are facing the largest racial achievement gaps? Once you complete the quiz, you can see how your score compares to your peers, get the correct answers with detailed explanations, and be provided with additional readings and resources on the topic.

SAVE THE DATE FOR NEXT WEEK'S WEBINAR!
Developing MSAN Programming at the Middle School Level: Learning from Equity Clubs in Arizona
Thursday 11/9/2017 2:00 PM PST-MST/3:00 PM CST/4:00 PM EST
Participate using your computer, smartphone, or telephone
Online: http://go.wisc.edu/27470h Phone In: (855) 947-8255, Passcode 9393721#
Participants will hear the story of how Buckeye Elementary School District in Arizona has created an award-winning middle school program that focuses on increasing educational equity for their

middle school students, framed by their district participation in the Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN) and building upon the MSAN high school student leader conference experience of one of their neighboring MSAN districts. This webinar is open to non-MSAN districts.

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