

## Minority Student Achievement Network MSAN Monthly, October 2016

Hello MSAN Educators!

Below is another update for you to review and share with your colleagues. In this edition of the MSAN Monthly, we highlight the student scholars who participated in the 2016 MSAN Student Conference, celebrate the work of an incredible social worker who has devoted her professional life to supporting students, and focus our professional learning on one of the most persistent challenges to equity our students face - disproportionality in school discipline. There is a lot to learn from our students, our educators, and the researchers committed to closing opportunity gaps in the many ways they manifest in our schools.

### **EQUITY IN ACTION**

#### **MSAN Student Conference 2016: Every Step Leaves a Trail**

MSAN would like to recognize the almost 250 students, chaperones, volunteers, and district officials who attended the 2016 MSAN Student Conference hosted by Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools. Through college visits to The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University, guest speakers including MSAN alumni, and collaborative planning, student leaders and staff from 19 MSAN districts explored issues of equity and student achievement. They also created action plans for eliminating institutional barriers in their schools and districts. THANK YOU to all who made the 17th annual student conference a great success; in particular, a special thanks to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools planning team of Marlow Artis, Lorie Clark, and Sheldon Lanier. In the words of one of our RPC members in Brookline, MA: "Our students came back with their eyes open wider and with fires in their hearts. Thank you MSAN!"

If you would like a glimpse into the power of the MSAN Student Conference, please take a look at our [website](#) that includes the summary video, program, and the conference reading materials.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Training on Equity & School Discipline...Streamed Live on Facebook!**

On November 3, REL Northwest is offering a training on the root causes of exclusionary discipline. The event features Dr. Anne Gregory of Rutgers University, who has published extensively in the areas of equity in education, zero tolerance policies, and strategies for reducing racial disparities in school discipline.

If you can't make it out to the Pacific Northwest for this session, you can watch it live on Facebook! Sign up here for updates on the [live stream](#). Click here for more information: [Eliminating Disparities in School Discipline](#). The live broadcast will take place Thursday, November 3, 2016 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. PDT. For more information, feel free to email Vicki Nishioka at [vicki.nishioka@educationnorthwest.org](mailto:vicki.nishioka@educationnorthwest.org).

### **LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT**

#### **Mrs. Leona Keel Honored by Princeton's YMCA**

[The Princeton YMCA Centennial Award](#) honors individuals in the region who exhibit outstanding commitment to nurturing the potential of our area youth, and who consistently demonstrate the YMCA's four core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility in their daily lives. Lenora Keel, Princeton Public Schools social worker and long-time MSAN student conference chaperone, will be one of five people to receive this exceptional award. She has provided critical guidance and enduring support to children and families beyond the school day for twenty-three years! **Thank you, Mrs. Keel for all you do!**

## **RESEARCH YOU CAN USE**

### **Increasing Respect Decreases Suspension Rates**

Take a look at [this article in \*Education Week\*](#) about a one-time intervention to help teachers and students empathize with each other. The intervention **halved the number of suspensions at five diverse California middle schools**, and helped students who had previously been suspended feel more connected at school. For more information, see this [link](#) to the Stanford University study on this intervention, published in April in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

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