



# CU Cradle2Career

Pathways to Success for Every Student



JANUARY 28, 2016

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**Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember you have within you the strength, the patience and passion to reach for the stars, to change the world” – Harriet Tubman**

## **NEW MEMBERS TO THE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL:**

Lead for Life, Inc.  
Javae Wright Sr.

Community Member  
Nancy Gaylen

### **Thanks to the following organizations that provide ongoing staff and support for all of our teams:**

Chamber of Commerce:  
Workforce Readiness

Champaign and Urbana  
School Districts: Data

CU Schools Foundation:  
Support for Academic  
Success

Community Foundation:  
Finances

Martin, Hood, Friese and  
Associates: Printing

United Way:  
Kindergarten Readiness



**Ever noticed how many players sit on the bench at a football game?** It doesn't make sense to us until we think about the number of squads (e.g., first offense, second offense) within a team -- all players needed for a specific type of play or to "step up" at a moment's notice.

TEAM CUC2C is the *Leadership Council*—everyone who wants to support our children cradle to career. Within it, our “first squads” Kindergarten Readiness, Workforce Readiness and Support for Academic Success (updates below) are all working to move the ball forward. Yet they do so *knowing* that the Leadership Council is ready to “jump into the game” as needed so Team CUC2C can win.

The KR squad has the play-by-play strategy for 2016 in position. NOW, *it is time for your squad to push Team CUC2C to the end zone.* At our February 25<sup>th</sup> Leadership Council meeting from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm (location TBA), KR will explain what is happening March-December and *your squad* can sign-up for your piece in our victory plan. The first whistle blows in March so grab your gear and meet us on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Lee Ann and Denise

## **Poverty and Social Emotional Skills**

Both the KR and WFR goal teams have selected “social-emotional skills” as key to goal success. *Why is poverty such a factor?*



Many families living in poverty must *daily* juggle numerous competing stressors like food, child care, transportation, housing, jobs, etc. These stressors deplete everyone's energy and ability to make healthy decisions. Children in poverty:

- **Have fewer reliable emotional interactions** – strong relationships help stabilize a child's behavior.
- **Have fewer enrichment activities** – which can inhibit cognitive, social and emotional growth.
- **Are exposed to more acute and chronic stress** which weakens brain development.
- **Are more likely to be malnourished, exposed to environmental hazards, and have insufficient health care** – all conditions for poorer health.

For more information, check out the book *Too Many Left Behind.*

**The Kindergarten Readiness  
Quality Early Learning  
Subgroup**

*Patti Hood, Co-Facilitator*

*Lynn Bell, Co-Facilitator*

*Marie Coobs*

*Tracy Dace*

*Julie Healy*

*LaDonna Helm*

*Mary Hensley*

*Nancy Kemna*

*Misty Krippel*

*Regina Lee*

*Christine Nevitt*

*Mary-am Raheem*

*Betsy Shea*

*Lisa Sheltra*

*Darcy Silver*

*Staci Ward*

We welcome you to  
join the CUC<sub>2</sub>C  
Leadership Council.

For more  
information, email  
Denise Martin at  
[denise@mhfa.net](mailto:denise@mhfa.net)

Minimal expectations of  
Leadership Council members:

1. Be a community champion of the CUC<sub>2</sub>C effort.
2. Provide identified expertise when requested.
3. Respond, critique, give feedback on performance issues, new initiatives, volunteer recruitment, etc.
4. Attend the Leadership Council meetings (3/year).

**Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek" – Barak Obama**

**News!**



- Follow us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/CUCradle2Career>
- The Community Engagement Team has produced a video. Check out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITUK2m9k8KU&feature=youtu.be>
- The KR team was awarded a one year "Innovation and Collaboration" grant from the Illinois Children's Health Care Foundation.

**Goal Team: Kindergarten Readiness Team (KR)**

- From March-May, a workshop for families of wait-listed entering Kindergartners (called Ready!) will be offered in 2-3 locations.
- KR Summer Family camp will be offered in 5 locations this summer. Major partners include both school districts and Windsor Road Christian Church.
- The team (DSC as the lead organization) is going to train the Public Health District case managers in the "Baby Talk" model and is working with Carle Hospital on a plan to introduce "Baby Talk" to families of newborns.

**Goal Team: Support for Academic Success**

- The Steering Committee gave the green light to start this goal team.
- CU Schools Foundation agreed to "anchor" the team while Judy Wiegand (Unit 4) and Jennifer Ivory-Tatum (Unit 116) will serve as co-facilitators.
- The facilitators are in the process of populating the team with a project start date end of February.

**Goal Team: Workforce Readiness (WFR)**

- Team has landed on Social-Emotional Skills building and Career and Technical Education (CTE) K-12 as the two strategies to collaboratively pursue in 2016.
- More meetings with district educators are scheduled to identify which "best practices" are "best fits" to scale-up or implement in the Champaign-Urbana community.



- CU Schools Foundation for agreeing to anchor Goal 2: Every student will have the support needed for academic success. CUSF director, Molly Delaney, will lead the "SAS" (Support for Academic Success) team.
- Champaign & Urbana School districts for supplying co-facilitators for the new Support for Academic Success team.
- Nicholas Gaines at Robeson Elementary has agreed to serve as WFR co-facilitator.
- Samantha Hendon who patiently kept reworking the "Statisticks" video.
- Marcia Nelson for faithfully serving as the notetaker for our Steering Committee.
- Jasmine Capo, our new Facebook "master".
- Quality Early Learning team members for all their hard work (see sidebar).
- Jackie Farber for her first anniversary as the Newsletter editor.