



# CU Cradle2Career

Pathways to Success for Every Student



APRIL 29, 2015

WWW.CUCRADLE2CAREER.ORG

**"It's easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." – Frederick Douglass**

### **NEW MEMBERS to the LEADERSHIP COUNCIL:**

Community Member  
*Joyce Hurd*

Community Member  
*Carol Scharlau*

Community Member  
*Chi-Fang Wu*

Cozad Asset Management, Inc.  
*Steve Gardner*

Infobright  
*Jeffrey Kibler*

Three Degrees of Change  
*Cindy Guthrie*

Thunderstruck Design  
*Rod Roberts*

Anyone have tulips or daffodils? I am enjoying the 60 bulbs planted last fall. Yet, these 60 bulbs do not fill up the space... it will take more digging, fertilizer, mulch and time before the plot is thick with flowers.

CUC2C was "planted" in September 2013. Our first blooming, spring 2014, launched the Kindergarten Readiness team. This spring we also have Workforce Readiness on the move. That's what you see. The constant tending – collecting/analysis of data, research, volunteer recruitment, grant writing, etc. – is out of sight, yet necessary if we are to have sustainable impact. Having paid positions could make this move faster, yet we believe in our community as much as we do in the value of collective impact.

Quick fixes to complex problems are like annuals – looks beautiful for one summer but is gone by the first frost. Thank you to each member who is helping us till the fields... someday, we'll have a field full of year-round color!



Denise, Lee Ann, and our Operations Team

We welcome you to join the CUC2C Leadership Council. For more information, email Denise Martin at [denise@mhfa.net](mailto:denise@mhfa.net)

### **Did You Know?**

Here are some statistics regarding Champaign county from the Social Impact Research Center in their report: "Poor By Comparison: Report on Illinois Poverty."

1. The number of live teen births per 1,000 women ages 15-19 in 2010 was 51.5 (Illinois rate was 30.4 per 1000 live births).
2. The 2013 poverty rate was 21.6% (14.6% in all of Illinois).
3. The percentage of children living in poverty in 2013 was 20.8%, slightly above the Illinois rate of 20.6%.



## Kindergarten Readiness Team (KR)

The Kindergarten Readiness strategy teams continue to work on their action plans. The “Born Learning” Community Campaign (headed by United Way) is doing a pre-campaign survey, securing billboard/media outlets and having focus groups. The Urbana School District is the lead on a summer “Get Ready for Kindergarten” family series intended to catch children who have not had a Pre-K experience. The Child Find team, with the Developmental Services Center in charge, continues to work with Carle Foundation Hospital and the Public Health District on starting a phone support service for moms. More entities keep joining. For more information, contact Patti Hood at [p.hood@cuc2c.net](mailto:p.hood@cuc2c.net).

## Workforce Readiness Team (WFR)

Workforce Readiness has disseminated a “readiness skills” survey to local employers and is awaiting the results. In the coming months, analysis of those results will point the team toward what “best practices” need to be scaled-up in our community. For more information or to join the team, contact Debbie Hensleigh at: [dhhensleigh@gmail.com](mailto:dhhensleigh@gmail.com)

**“We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop” – Mother Teresa**



4. Funded Head Start Enrollment in FY 2012 was 523.
5. The High School Graduation Rate for Low-Income Students in the 2013-2014 academic year was 80.4% compared to the total High School Graduation rate of 88.7%.
6. Percent meeting or exceeding standards on the ISAT, in FY 2013-2014 was 57.2% (below the IL rate of 58.2%)
7. The percent of severely rent-burdened households from 2009-2013 was 33.3% (Illinois rate was 25.2%)
8. The Work Hours per week at IL Minimum Wage to Afford a 2-Bedroom at FMR (\$862.00) in 2014 was 80 hours.
9. The Share of Families Receiving SNAP that have 1 or more Workers in Family from 2009-2013 was 86.3%
10. The Percent of Children Eligible for Free or Reduced Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch in the academic year of 2013-2014 was 51.7%?
11. The Child Food Insecurity Rate in 2012 was 20.5% (or 1/5 of all Champaign County children).

The report can be found at:

<http://www.ilpovertyreport.org/county/champaign-county#.VUAbc5Nu7fc>

## Shout Outs – Thanks to:

- University of Illinois (UI) student Stephanie Samaniego, Halimi Castellanos and Grace Lueng for help with writing reports.
- UI Business Administration 352 class for developing an intake/storage system for community program data.
- Carle donating billboard space for the KR community awareness campaign.
- UI Association for Information Systems (AIS) student group for updating our website.
- The Urbana School district and Windsor Road Christian Church for co-sponsoring the summer “Get Ready for Kindergarten” family series.

## Get In the Game!

- *Enjoy cooking?* As part of the summer “Get Ready for Kindergarten” family series, we need meals for 40-50 at each site. Signing up for one meal will be a huge help!
- *Have fun with children?* The summer “Get Ready for Kindergarten” family series will involve child care for siblings of all ages. 90 minute commitment.

For more information, contact Lee Ann Kelly @ 898-3101 or [l.kelly@cucradle2career.org](mailto:l.kelly@cucradle2career.org)