



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
ENGAGE. EMPOWER. EDUCATE.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Ms. Cathy Fuentes-Rohwer, President
Ms. Susan P. Wanzer, Vice President
Ms. Elizabeth Ruh, Secretary
Mrs. Martha Street, Assistant Secretary
Ms. Jacinda Townsend Gides, Member
Mr. Keith Klein, Member
Mr. Brandon Shurr, Member

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Judith A. DeMuth, Superintendent
Dr. Andrea Mobley, Asst. Superintendent for HR and Operations
Dr. Markay Winston, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Dr. Debra Prenkert, Director of Elementary Education
Dr. Kathleen Hugo, Director of Special Education
Mr. John Kenny, Director of Business Operations
Mr. Tim Pritchett, Director of Technology

MCCSC awarded \$1.2 million ROI grant towards Ready Schools Initiative

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 23, 2020

BLOOMINGTON – The Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC) has been awarded a grant of \$1.2 million over five years from Regional Opportunity Initiatives Inc. (ROI) to assist in launching a new implementation plan for the expansion of several preK-12 curricular and programmatic offerings designed to meet the educational and workforce needs of the Indiana Upland region.

[Ready Schools](#) focuses on five key areas: Project-Based Learning, STEAM & Hands-On Learning, Career Awareness, Entrepreneurship, and Community & Industry Partnerships. The programs within each of the key areas are the outcome of an earlier design-thinking process MCCSC conducted as part of a \$390,000 planning grant also awarded by ROI. The planning effort explored new ways to increase the number of college, career, and life ready students and respond to the findings of an ROI Occupational Needs Assessment revealing that careers in advanced manufacturing, life sciences, and national security and defense sectors are in high demand in the 11-county region. The multi-million dollar Ready Schools Plan will be funded through a combination of grants, donations, in-kind talent and new budget allocations.

"There is tremendous opportunity to expand our curricular and programmatic offerings to meet the needs of our students and provide them greater access to explore postsecondary education or career options," MCCSC Superintendent Dr. Judith DeMuth said. "To this end, MCCSC is deeply committed to expediting the development of innovative learning opportunities and to close the gap in our offerings that prevent students from being ready to be successful in any path they choose upon graduation.

"We are extremely grateful to the ROI Board of Directors for their continued trust in our work and for this extraordinary grant that will further MCCSC's bold efforts to provide authentic and relevant ways to ground teaching and learning in relevancy while addressing the needs of our students."

[Media Kit: Access the full Ready Schools Implementation Plan, photos, and more](#)

The MCCSC-led initiative will initially focus on six new programs that include expanded Project Based Learning (PBL) teacher education, a STEM to Them Mobile Lab, Middle school Makerspaces, a new College & Career Center, INCubatoredu, and several college & career awareness events. First year plans also include the hiring of a College and Career Readiness Coordinator and an Outreach and Innovation Coordinator.

"We are very proud to award this grant and look forward to the opportunities it will make possible for the 11,000 students of MCCSC," said ROI President and CEO Tina Peterson.



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
ENGAGE. EMPOWER. EDUCATE.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Ms. Cathy Fuentes-Rohwer, President
Ms. Susan P. Wanzer, Vice President
Ms. Elizabeth Ruh, Secretary
Mrs. Martha Street, Assistant Secretary
Ms. Jacinda Townsend Gides, Member
Mr. Keith Klein, Member
Mr. Brandon Shurr, Member

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Judith A. DeMuth, Superintendent
Dr. Andrea Mobley, Asst. Superintendent for HR and Operations
Dr. Markay Winston, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Dr. Debra Prenkert, Director of Elementary Education
Dr. Kathleen Hugo, Director of Special Education
Mr. John Kenny, Director of Business Operations
Mr. Tim Pritchett, Director of Technology

"Throughout the Ready Schools process, MCCSC has embraced the important role it must play in regional economic prosperity," added Peterson.

The establishment of the Ready Schools Initiative comes at a time when many of the 11 counties within the Indiana Uplands region are fostering new growth opportunities and capitalizing on the existing assets within the region. The five focus areas of the Ready School initiative will have an impact on PreK-12 connections to increase talent in the Indiana Uplands region, provide relevant and engaged real-world learning opportunities for students, align consistent partnerships that support student learning and increase teacher knowledge in implementing relevant hands-on classroom instruction.

"Although the five focus areas were originally identified on the stakeholder feedback received throughout the design-thinking process, they also align with many of the initiatives being sought from the Indiana Department of Education," said Dr. Markay Winston, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction, who will lead the initiative. "The creative thinking of our teachers, parents, students and over 600 stakeholder interviews gave us a plan that was bold, innovative and achievable. We like to believe this plan will not only enhance the learning process but also prepare our students for any future of their choosing."

By the end of the five-year grant period, the Ready Schools Initiative will have established over 55 new or expanded curriculum initiatives, activities and college & career awareness programs affecting all 23 Elementary, Middle, and High schools and more than 11,000 students.

###

About MCCSC

The Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC), located in South Central Indiana, is a dynamic community with broad diversity in cultures, religions, ethnic groups, and socioeconomic levels. This diversity and the school community's commitment to quality education have made the MCCSC an educational leader in Indiana for the past thirty-five years. The MCCSC offers comprehensive educational curricula with special activities and programs geared to provide enrichment, exploration, and instructional support for students in grades pre-K through 12.

About Regional Opportunity Initiatives, Inc.

Regional Opportunity Initiatives, Inc. (ROI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and a supporting organization of the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County. Established in 2016 to advance economic and community prosperity in the Indiana Uplands region, ROI is implementing an education and workforce plan and a regional opportunity fund for quality-of-place investments in an 11-county area encompassing Brown, Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Greene, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Orange, Owen and Washington counties.



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
ENGAGE. EMPOWER. EDUCATE.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Ms. Cathy Fuentes-Rohwer, President
Ms. Susan P. Wanzer, Vice President
Ms. Elizabeth Ruh, Secretary
Mrs. Martha Street, Assistant Secretary
Ms. Jacinda Townsend Gides, Member
Mr. Keith Klein, Member
Mr. Brandon Shurr, Member

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Judith A. DeMuth, Superintendent
Dr. Andrea Mobley, Asst. Superintendent for HR and Operations
Dr. Markay Winston, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Dr. Debra Prenkert, Director of Elementary Education
Dr. Kathleen Hugo, Director of Special Education
Mr. John Kenny, Director of Business Operations
Mr. Tim Pritchett, Director of Technology

Media Contact

Kelby Turmail
Communications Officer
MCCSC Phone: 812-330-7700 Email: kturmail@mccsc.edu

Tina Peterson
Regional Opportunity Initiatives, Inc. Phone: 812-333-9016
Email: tinapeterson@regionalopportunityinc.org