

Board Report
Lisa Willner, Ph.D.
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Deeper Learning 2016

Along with a JCPS/JCTA delegation, I attended Deeper Learning 2016 in San Diego, CA, March 22-25. At the conference, we had an opportunity to hear from and learn alongside thought leaders, researchers, and expert and developing practitioners who brought the still-evolving concept of “Deeper Learning” to life. Some of the characteristics of Deeper Learning, which were not just talked about but actively demonstrated throughout the conference, are that it is interactive, participatory, experiential, and fosters critical thinking, effective communication, and intra- and inter-personal connection. Conference workshops were highly interactive and engaging. What’s true for students is true for adults as well: it is a lot more fun and meaningful to engage actively in a learning experience than it is to “sit and git.” A few takeaways:

- Personalized learning and deeper learning are closely related concepts that must be considered hand in hand. Personalized learning actively *engages* each learner by recognizing and building on individual strengths, interests, identities, and lived experiences. NOTE: Personalized learning is not the same thing as an individualized remediation plan.
- Personalized/Deeper learning goes hand in hand with equitable opportunities and outcomes for every child. We saw numerous demonstrations throughout the conference of formerly disengaged students who were now fully invested in their education.
- Not all data is quantitative and not all student growth can or should be reduced to a number – while strengths and mastery cannot necessarily always be measured, they can still be meaningfully demonstrated.
- There are research-based and data informed models for driving continuous improvement in teaching and learning. The Improvement Science model of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching is one such model. We do not need to re-invent the wheel.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health

Each year, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) awards a Culture of Health Prize to up to 10 cities, to honor and elevate communities that are making great strides toward better health. This year, Louisville has made it to the final round of 16 cities nationwide for prize consideration, and during the week of 4/18, a team of evaluators from RWJF was in town to meet with community members, leaders, and organizational representatives from across our city. I was honored to be invited to represent JCPS at two events during the RWJF visit. I attended a Culture of Health community dinner at the African American Heritage Center on April 19, and a Community Conversation at the Louisville Urban League on April 22. JCPS was one of 20 community organizations invited to have representation at the Community Conversation, and it was a wonderful opportunity to foster connections with community partners across the city. As Louisville Mayor Greg Fisher said of Louisville advancing this far in the competition: “This recognition is a great testament to the work being done across our community by civic, nonprofit and corporate partners with the goal of eliminating health inequities and improving overall health in our community.”

Louisville’s nomination for the RWJF Culture of Health prize was spearheaded by the **Community Foundation of Louisville** and the **Greater Louisville Project**. Prize winners will be announced in July.

African American Initiative Community Education Summit

I attended KY Senator Gerald Neal's Community Education Summit on April 15th. JCPS was well-represented by panelist Dr. Donna Hargens and panel moderator Dr. John Marshall, and with many JCPS staff and board members also in attendance. I particularly appreciated the opportunity to hear more about **15K Degrees**, a complement to the **55K** initiative, focusing on degree attainment for African Americans in Louisville.

Kentucky Leaders Luncheon at VEX Robotics World Competition

The VEX Robotics World Competition, held at the KY Fair and Exposition Center April 21-23, brought to town robotics championship teams from all across the globe, representing 27 different nations, with teams speaking 40+ languages. This competition is truly the "Olympics of Robotics!" For the first time, JCPS had a team represented in the competition – the H.B. Slaughter Elementary School Slaughterbots. Participation in robotics is a real-world, real-life experience that incorporates cross-discipline academic standards, as well as life skills and social/emotional dispositions such as creative and critical thinking, and active problem solving consistent with the JCPS strategic plan, Vision 2020. Speakers/presenters at a special leadership luncheon on April 21st included **KY Lt. Governor Jenean Hampton**, representatives from **GLI Business Leaders for Education**, the **Jefferson County Public Schools Foundation**, and robotics students from Slaughter Elementary School and Central High School. Particularly compelling was testimony from the Central HS students who were formerly disengaged and are now fully invested in their education through their participation in VEX Robotics, and the Slaughter students who demonstrated a number of important intellectual and social skills and dispositions in their presentation. We are fortunate to live in a community with business leaders willing to invest in this important opportunity for our students.