

JM edit urban education 032117

Author: KH Editor: JM

Approval: AHS_____

Topsheet

School of Education

8th Annual Urban Education and Community Forum

April 3, 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Student Union - 401

Chancellor arrival 4:45 p.m.

speech at 6:30 p.m.

5 min.

Event Title:

SOE Urban Education and Community Forum

Audience: 300 to 400 community educators, administrators and others; UMKC faculty, staff, students

Key talking points:

- 8th annual forum
- SOE is a leader in urban education; valuing democracy, diversity and social justice
- Intro Dean Perry as new Dean of the School of Education
- UMKC is likewise committed to urban issues

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Good evening, everyone. I am Leo Morton, Chancellor of UMKC. I am grateful so many of you could be here for this event, the eighth annual Urban Education and Community Forum, sponsored by UMKC's School of Education.

These annual forums represent what our School of Education and, really, our entire university is all about: service and partnership within the greater Kansas City community and beyond.

Our School of Education is a leader in research and teaching in the field of urban education. Founded in 1954, the same year as the Brown v. Topeka Board of Education decision, the School of Education is committed to core values of equity, inclusion and social justice, and to achieving the unfulfilled promise of that historic decision.

Since we last met in April 2016, UMKC had the honor of welcoming Dr. Justin Perry as the new dean of the School of Education. Prior to coming to UMKC, Dean Perry served as Chair and Associate Professor in the Department of Counseling, Administration, Supervision, and Adult Learning at Cleveland State University. He also served as Director of the Center for Urban Education at Cleveland State. Dean Perry began his tenure at UMKC in July 2016, and it has been a pleasure having him here. He shares our university's commitment to establishing the UMKC School of Education as one of the leading urban-serving schools of education in the nation.

Tonight's discussion topic is *What it takes for effective urban education: Advancing the Literacy Development of African American Boys*. That is a very fitting subject for the state of education today. We must all recognize the critical need for strong advocates to push for equal and quality resources within our schools.

UMKC is Kansas City's University. We are dedicated to being a partner, advocate, and resource in our community, especially in promoting the value of a sound education and ensuring our communities and schools have the resources they need. We believe that working collaboratively, academics, practitioners, community organizations, non-profit organizations, and the general public will facilitate our understanding to solve critical urban issues.

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In order to offer high-caliber programs and services for our school-aged children, we must ensure that our community members and representatives are just as dedicated to students' success in the classroom as parents are at home. I think that's where it starts: advocating for our children at home, in the classroom, in legislation, and in the community. We need teachers and mentors who encourage our children, especially African American boys. Research shows that young black males fall below their peers in other racial groups with regard to literacy rates, high school graduation rates, and college readiness. We can change that trajectory and push our children to be the best people and scholars they can be... despite the odds against them.

After the presentation tonight, I trust we will leave empowered to help students succeed at each level of their education journey and I look forward to keeping the conversation going about how we can help to defy the odds and improve literacy development for all students.

Let me introduce to you the School of Education dean, Dr. Justin Perry, who will introduce tonight's speaker.