

Parent Leadership Summit • May 15, 2006

8 – 9 Registration, Networking, Continental Breakfast

9 – 10

Mind the Gap

Mary Brainerd, President and CEO, HealthPartners, and Founding CEO, Itasca Project

In addition to leading one of the largest health care organizations in the country, Mary Brainerd is active with the Itasca Project, a group of 40 government, civic and business leaders addressing the issues that impact long-term economic growth, including jobs, education, transportation, and economic disparities. The importance, to all of Minnesota, of addressing gaps in race, place and class, will be her focus today.



10 – 10:15 Break

10:15 – 11:15 **Responders' Panel**

Jennifer Godinez, Associate Director, Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, and Director, MN College Access Network (MCAN)



MCAN is a statewide organization whose mission is to develop the college access field in Minnesota and, therefore, increase the higher education rates of low-income and students of color in Minnesota. Ms. Godinez has also served as Executive Director of La Escuelita, a Latino, immigrant after-school organization, which has been recognized as an exemplary after-school model.

Bill Green, Interim Superintendent, Minneapolis Public Schools



Dr. Green is directly responsible for overseeing the business functions and academic achievement of all students in one of the state's largest and most racially diverse districts. He is also an associate professor of history at Augsburg College in Minneapolis and an adjunct professor at St. John's University in Collegeville. From 1993 to 2001, Dr. Green served on the Minneapolis School Board and was board chair for three of those years.

Vernae Hasbargen, Director of Legislative Action, Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA)



MREA is an association of 150 school districts located in Alexandria, Minnesota. In addition to her work with MREA, Ms. Hasbargen is vice-chair of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and serves on the board of the Minnesota Rural Partners. She is also an advisor to the Freeman Forum at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Policy at the University of Minnesota, as well as a former Breckenridge school board member.

11:15 – 11:30 **A Special Recognition of Senator Mark Dayton** for his Excellence in Education program

Senator Mark Dayton established the Award for Excellence in Education to publicly recognize the thousands of individual success stories that occur in our public schools each day; his award honors Minnesota schools and school districts for outstanding contributions to the lives of their students and for improving students' academic performances.



Parents United, in turn, is recognizing Senator Dayton for the persistence and effort he devoted to getting the Award for Excellence in Education established, and for speaking forcefully and frequently in support of Minnesota's public schools.

11:30 – 12:30 Lunch (provided)
Mary Cecconi, Executive Director, Parents United for Public Schools

"Great Schools Begin at the Ballot Box"

12:45 Board buses for Capitol

Transportation will be provided to the Capitol to meet with legislative leaders.

3:15 Return to TIES building from Capitol