



NNER National Network for Educational Renewal

July 16, 2016

Changemakers
The Children's Wellbeing Initiative
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Dear Changemakers,

What if all adults were equipped with evidence-based strategies to prevent mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders in children?

Wright State University's program efforts and their proposal for "Protecting Children's Futures with Prevention" is making steady progress to ensure that all adults do have the knowledge and abilities to prevent mental, emotional and behavioral disorders in children. The PAX/GBG and Kernels for Life projects are moving along quite well, generating high impact data in a short amount of time. The fact that the projects are yielding big returns in the classroom and also in diverse non-school based settings is significant. Wright State has been asked by the state of Ohio to take these approaches to scale as the first state-wide universal prevention approach. With funding from the state medical director, we have delivered training and informational materials on the use of PAX/GBG for physicians as an alternative to psychotropic medications for kids. We have responded to requests from the Ohio Attorney General's office to bring PAX/GBG to schools and communities identified as at risk for disproportional umbers of mental, emotional and behavioral disorders?. The "Children's Wellbeing Initiative's" three core building blocks of children's wellbeing, 1)a strong sense of self, 2)purpose, and 3) belonging, map tightly onto the PAX/GBG and Kernels for Life projects.

The National Network for Educational Renewal (NNER) is pleased to offer our support for the "Protecting Children's Futures with Prevention" proposal that answers the call for information and proposals from Caremakers and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The Wright State University Partnership for Educational Renewal has been a member of the National Network for Education Renewal since 1993. With more than three decades of ongoing partnerships with community agencies and the schools to ensure with John I. Goodlad and colleagues' extensive research on schools and the institutions that prepare counselors, educators and teachers formed the work of the NNER. Currently, the NNER is a membership network dedicated to the simultaneous renewal of schools and the institutions that prepare our teachers and human services professionals (nationwide - 19 university partnerships of P -12 districts, colleges of Arts and Sciences, colleges of Education & Human Services and the communities in which they are embedded). Our work is based on the four-part mission of 1)providing equal access to quality learning for all students, 2)promoting responsible stewardship of our schools, community agencies and universities, 3)improving teaching and learning through pedagogy that nurtures and challenges all learners, and 4)providing students with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to become healthy fully engaged participants in our democratic society. The Network

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lends a strong collaborative dimension to the Wright State work and creates a natural route for increasing the number of children served and the diversity of communities in which the work takes place. Central to the NNER's mission is educating children and youths to be productive and positive members of their communities; we work toward ensuring that academic learning is done in the context of understanding and supporting the larger surround that encompasses each learner's life wide experiences.

A primary strategy for educational renewal is school/community/university partnerships where currently engaged students and future educators and human service providers receive quality educational experiences. Collaborative policies and practices between school districts, community agencies and institutions of higher education are necessary to advance this work that we view as ongoing and never complete. Unlike some historical reforms/projects that have a beginning and an end, the renewal work of the NNER assumes that we must question assumptions and continue to make changes as we see where improvements can be made to ensure healthy communities and rectify quality gaps in education for all youth.

The NNER has more than 3 decades of successful partnership experience in diverse rural, urban and suburban community and educational environments and believes that this proposal will utilize the learning's of the NNER as it does it's work and will strengthen to ability of NNER partnership members to ensure the wellbeing of the youth they serve. We urge you to invite our Wright State University partners to share with you their success and their proposed "Protecting Children's Futures with Prevention" proposal.

Sincerely,

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