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PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, WILLIAM PATerson UNIVERSITY CELEBRATE FIVE-YEAR EFFORT TO CULTIVATE EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

Dozens of educators completed master’s degrees, earned principal certifications through federally-funded partnership

PATERSON – Officials from the Paterson Public School District and William Paterson University (WPU) are celebrating the outcomes of a five-year partnership that focused on developing the abilities of current school administrators while cultivating future educational leaders.

Through this partnership, 72 district administrators participated in yearlong professional development over the course of five years, while 68 of the district’s aspiring leaders obtained master’s degrees in educational leadership or principal’s certifications.

“William Paterson University has been a truly effective partner with the Paterson Public School District in helping educators and schools realize their true potential,” said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. “This is important work that has been accomplished during a critical time in public education. Students need to be better prepared to face the demands of the 21st century. Teachers need to maintain awareness of the most effective teaching methods and pedagogy to lead the best out of their students. That will only happen if we have solid educational leadership in our schools.”

“These efforts have benefited the educators who participated in these programs, and increased their capacity to engage in servant leadership,” said Assistant Superintendent Cicely Warren, who oversaw the implementation of the grants in the district. “When we invest in the continuum of leadership, our students and our schools benefit.”

“William Paterson University is grateful to have been awarded the Leaders as Learners and Turnaround Partnerships-NJ grants in partnership with Paterson Public Schools,” said Amy Ginsberg, Dean of WPU’s College of Education. “Through our joint effort, these grant projects have been able to strengthen current school leadership through a yearlong professional learning series and job embedded mentoring, as well as create a large, highly qualified pipeline of future leaders who are well prepared to move into leadership roles and impact schools and student learning for years to come.”
The federal Leaders as Learners (LAL) and the Turnaround Partnership - New Jersey (TAP-NJ) grants were awarded to WPU five years ago, and the university chose Paterson Public Schools as a partnering school district. The $3.1 million LAL grant was designed to build capacity and reflective practice among current administrators as well as to develop a pipeline of aspiring leaders who are in the process of obtaining a master’s degree in educational leadership at WPU.

Meanwhile, the $1.9 million TAP-NJ grant provided full scholarships for master’s degrees in educational leadership to aspiring leaders at the district’s four schools that had received School Improvement Grants (SIG) and schools that are eligible for SIG grants. Some of the district’s educational leaders received scholarships for a six-credit field-based course.

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