A community’s success is rooted in its educational system.

Another breakthrough idea from the University of Cincinnati

A Précis: Center for Urban Education

The University of Cincinnati’s Center for Urban Education (CUE) is a one-of-a-kind model focused on success: the success of students at all levels through our educational system; the success of teachers who are the heart of any educational institution; and the success of communities through partnerships that affect our social and economic well-being. Investments in CUE – from the Ohio Governor’s Office to the U.S. Department of Education to the Carnegie Corporation of New York and others – endorse the vision of this unique collaboration and the wide-ranging possibilities for future impact.

Serving Evidence-based Decision Making & Accountability:

The Center for Urban Education

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A prosperous economic future and a healthy society depend on well-educated, successful young people. Students who stay in school and graduate are far less likely to be on public support, be unemployed, or end up in jail. Better educational opportunities can also lead to college diplomas, promising careers and stronger salaries. From public safety to economic competitiveness to quality of life, a community’s success is rooted in its educational system. Yet schools here in the Cincinnati region and the State of Ohio – much like the rest of the nation – are doing a delicate balancing act of recruiting and retaining high-quality teachers and providing growing student support services amid shrinking budgets.
Addressing those challenges is at the heart of the work of the University of Cincinnati’s Center for Urban Education (CUE). CUE is working closely with schools and decision-makers to develop a vision that builds on the educational success and social well-being of students. We now acknowledge that educational problems cannot be solved without simultaneously addressing other significant family, community and public health issues. CUE brings to this challenge the organization, research and skills necessary to assemble the resources upon which successful partnerships depend.

Housed in the UC College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services, the center is a rapid response system, providing research and policy analysis for policymakers facing the difficult decisions that affect our schools and communities.

Current priorities for the Center for Urban Education involve four major projects that demonstrate a broad range of research and implementation at regional, state and national levels:

- The Ohio Teacher Quality Partnership
- The regional Strive initiative
- The Coalition of Urban Serving Universities
- The Cincinnati Uptown Consortium

**The Ohio Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP)**

This research partnership involves all 50 college and university teacher education programs in Ohio. TQP is conducting a series of studies to better understand the aspects of teacher preparation, professional development, and early career support that help new teachers succeed in teaching math and reading to elementary and middle-school children. Working with Ohio teacher education programs, these landmark studies strive to determine how teacher attributes, preparation, induction experiences and professional development relate to improved academic growth and learning among pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade students.

**Strive**

Strive is a unique partnership of education, business, faith, nonprofit, philanthropic and civic leaders, along with the community at-large, who are committed to providing a world-class education to every child in the urban core of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. Strive seeks to create the best educational system in the world by ensuring that every child is prepared for
School from birth through early childhood education; that every child will have support both in and out of school; that every child will succeed academically; that every student will enroll in some form of postsecondary education; and that every student will graduate and enter a career.

CUE has partnered with Strive to evaluate the national research related to Strive action priorities and has also provided data collection and analysis for Strive improvement projects.

**Urban Serving Universities**

Led by UC President Nancy L. Zimpher, this is a national coalition working to revitalize urban America by tapping into the vast resources of urban public research universities. The coalition functions to advocate policies, positions and legislative strategies that further the urban agenda at national, state and regional levels.

As part of this initiative, CUE is working to design and implement data collection strategies for member colleges of education and to recommend strategies for data analysis related to the improvement of urban teacher education programs.

**Cincinnati Uptown Consortium**

Uptown Cincinnati is home to some of the top research and cultural institutions in the nation and is also home to one of the poorest and most under-educated populations in the Cincinnati region. Many Uptown neighborhood schools struggle to meet the needs of their students. As a result, communities suffer from high unemployment rates, high crime and high dropout rates. To improve the schools and the Uptown community, UC’s College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services (CECH) is partnering with Cincinnati Public Schools to establish centers of educational excellence within Uptown.

In regard to this partnership, CUE is assisting with an initiative to design a new University of Cincinnati/Cincinnati Public Schools Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) high school in the Uptown area.

A healthy community cannot thrive without a healthy educational system in which all students have opportunities to succeed. Where students struggle in underperforming school systems, increased crime, increased unemployment and an increased tax burden on
The Cincinnati Uptown Consortium will work with Cincinnati Public Schools to establish centers of educational excellence that show it can, indeed, be done.

The citizens also exist. These communities then fall farther behind on the national competitive stage, crippling future growth and opportunities for everyone.

Through innovative urban education research and action-oriented strategies, the University of Cincinnati Center for Urban Education is working with leaders throughout Greater Cincinnati, the state of Ohio, and the nation to develop a vision for education and social success and to “imagine what’s possible.”

For our region, our state and our nation, UC’s Center for Urban Education is already making an impact and is poised to go even farther. The Ohio Teacher Quality Partnership landmark studies will improve the way teachers teach according to the way students learn. Strive will help our communities provide a world-class education for every child. The Coalition of Urban Serving Universities will advocate policies and legislative strategies to promote the agenda for urban-based educational needs. The Cincinnati Uptown Consortium will work with Cincinnati Public Schools to establish centers of educational excellence that show it can, indeed, be done.

All of this begins with the University of Cincinnati.