

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 2008

Contact:

Michael Segner
202.387.8550
ms@mcopr.com

Veronica Douglas-Givan
Director of Communications and External Affairs
Bridgeport Public Schools
203.627.4008
Vdouglas-givan@bridgeportedu.net

**National Initiative and Mentorship Making A Difference In The Park City
*Moderate to High Gains Reported Across the Board in the District***

Bridgeport, CT – Paulette Miller and Gary O’Keefe’s smiles couldn’t be wider when they first saw the scores of their special need students. Many of their students scored above the proficiency level in reading, and one even scored a 5, the highest possible score.

“Our students have worked extremely hard this year, and we’re so happy that their effort was reflected in their scores,” said Miller a 7th and 8th grade Inclusion/Transitional classroom teacher at Blackham School in Bridgeport, Connecticut, “It is truly amazing.”

Miller and O’Keefe’s students also performed well on the math and writing standardized tests. A third of her class was above proficiency in both categories. She attributes these gains to the students’ hard work, the collaboration with her co-teacher Gary O’Keefe, support from school administrators, and mentoring from the National Urban Alliance for Effective Education (NUEA). Miller also attributes the school-wide gains to the successful formation of Vertical and Horizontal Data Teams at Blackham.

“The overall goal is for all students to score above proficiency and although we continue to see gains this partnership with the NUEA is helping us reach that goal, said Miller. “The teaching strategies I learned from NUEA were invaluable and easy to incorporate.”

“These scores show that all children can achieve high intellectual performance.” Alexis Leitgeb, an NUEA mentor who has works with Bridgeport

teachers. "These scores wouldn't be possible without the incredible support and dedication of the district's administrators."

The higher scores in Miller's classroom have been reflected across general education classrooms in district schools since NUA started working in Bridgeport. Fourth graders tested 4.7 percent higher in reading (Level III & IV) and 4.1 percent higher in writing (Level III & IV) in 2007, the first year of the NUA partnership, than in the previous three years. Sixth graders saw an average increase of 3.4 percent in reading, writing, and mathematics with nearly a 5-point jump in reading (level III & IV). The highest gains were in level III & IV eighth grade mathematics which rose an impressive 10 percentage points.

"Our teachers have done amazing work employing the strategies they have received from NUA," said Mrs. Marshall, principal of Beardsley school, "One of our classrooms went from a combined score of 12 to 42!"

The National Urban Alliance has not only contributed to a higher level of student learning, but has also supported teachers in their career development. Pam Perkins, a seventh grade geography teacher, successfully completed her State of Connecticut BEST Portfolio Assessment last spring. "My portfolio included many of the strategies I learned from NUA," said Perkins. "The NUA strategies are helpful with Bridgeport students since it is a language-based program, and so many of our students struggle with English language skills."

19 Bridgeport schools participated in the National Urban Alliance program with 290 teachers receiving 1,630 total hours of professional development and instruction in the latest research-based teaching strategies.

The National Urban Alliance for Effective Education (NUA) ® was founded in 1989 with a vision of school reform based upon three beliefs: all children are capable of attaining high educational standards; intelligence is modifiable, not fixed; and all stakeholders in the community must be involved in addressing the social, cultural, and intellectual needs of our youth.

To arrange for interviews with teachers or Bridgeport staff please contact Veronica Douglas-Givan at (203) 576-7304, to arrange for interviews with NUA staff please contact Michael Segner at (202) 387-8550.

Bridgeport-NUA Evaluation Report

Table 1. Fourth Grade CMT baseline (2002-2005 mean) percentages and first-year (2007) NUA Partnership percentages.

	District Baseline	District 2007
Reading Level II	20.7	24.5 (+3.8)
Reading III & IV	36.5	41.2 (+4.7)

Writing Level II	35.1	35.1	(0.0)
Writing III & IV	61.5	65.2	(+4.1)
Mathematics II	25.8	28.9	(+3.1)
Mathematics III & IV	52.5	54.4	(+1.9)

Table 2. Sixth Grade CMT baseline (2002-2005 mean) percentages and first-year (2007) NUA Partnership percentages.

	District Baseline	District 2006-07	
Reading Level II	28.8	31.2	(+2.4)
Reading III & IV	43.6	48.4	(+4.8)
Writing Level II	29.9	33.8	(+3.9)
Writing III & IV	62.1	66.6	(+4.5)
Mathematics II	31	32.8	(+1.8)
Mathematics III & IV	58.5	64.0	(+3.5)