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Dr. Howard Fuller Collegiate Academy and Milwaukee Excellence Announce Plans to Combine; Appoint Rodney Lynk as CEO of Combined School

Milwaukee (February 12, 2024) – Two of Milwaukee’s most prominent schools, Dr. Howard Fuller Collegiate Academy and Milwaukee Excellence, today announced plans to combine into one school. By joining forces, Dr. Howard Fuller Collegiate Academy and Milwaukee Excellence aim to create a new educational powerhouse that prepares more students on Milwaukee’s north side for success in college and beyond.

In evaluating the benefits of joining as one united organization, school leaders noted similarities in curriculums, teaching methodologies, extracurricular activities and enrichment programs, family support efforts, and financial stability, making the possibility of proactively combining organizations an exciting – and achievable – opportunity to fuel shared reach and impact.

“This is a transformational opportunity to help more students change the trajectory of their lives through education,” said Dr. Howard Fuller, founder of Dr. Howard Fuller Collegiate Academy. “We believe that combining our efforts, our resources and our networks holds great potential for us to nurture and graduate more scholars prepared for success in college and beyond.”

“Our schools share a mission to get more kids to – and through – college while building lives of integrity, high character and accountability,” said Rodney Lynk, current CEO of Milwaukee Excellence and future CEO of the combined school. “The union of two great schools can change the landscape of Milwaukee education for the better, especially for Black kids on the northside of Milwaukee. As we unite our strengths, our collective mission remains steadfast – to empower students with the tools and knowledge they need to overcome obstacles and thrive.”

The new combined school, which will retain the Dr. Howard Fuller Collegiate Academy name, will have the capacity to offer 850 high-quality seats for students in 6th-12th grade, with the possibility for future growth. It is anticipated the new school will include up to 100 staff and teaching positions, with existing high performing staff and teachers given priority in hiring.

The school will operate two campuses: the high school currently under construction by Dr. Howard Fuller Collegiate Academy in Milwaukee's Bronzeville neighborhood at 2212 N. Vel Phillips Ave, and a middle school at a renovated version of Dr. Howard Fuller Collegiate Academy's current building at 4030 N. 29th St. The combined school is expected to begin joint operations at the start of the 2024-25 academic year. Each school will continue separate operations under their respective charters until the end of the 2023/24 academic year.

About Dr. Howard Fuller Collegiate Academy

Dr. Howard Fuller Collegiate Academy is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2024. Founded by Dr. Howard Fuller, the school is a tuition-free, non-profit, public charter high school open to all students in the City of Milwaukee. We serve over 320 scholars, most of whom reside on the north side of Milwaukee, receive free and reduced lunch, and will be the first in their families to attend college when they attend.

Our mission is to send our scholars to and through college and we engage them in a vibrant culture of mentoring, challenging academics, and early college experiences. From day one every scholar is engaged in college and career exploration that culminates in apprenticeships and early workplace opportunities. This year, 23% of eligible students earned college credit through dual enrollment opportunities at our partner schools — UWM, MATC, WCTC, Gateway and Herzing.

Our college-going culture gets results: 100% of our graduates have been accepted into college since 2012. We do more than prepare our scholars for higher education. We believe in and support our scholars' college aspirations and, through our familial environment, nurture within them the tools each needs to persist through any obstacles. fullercollegiate.org

About Milwaukee Excellence

Through rigorous academics and character education essential for success, Milwaukee Excellence Charter School educates students to excel within and graduate from four-year colleges and to pursue the professions of their choice.

Established in 2015 with 120 6th grade students, Milwaukee Excellence has steadily grown, currently serving 600 students in 6th through 11th grade.

At Milwaukee Excellence, every student can and will succeed when given a rigorous college preparatory education. Milwaukee Excellence students will compete with students at some of the region's best universities and the most prestigious colleges across the country.

Graduates will carry with them the character traits informed by our FIRST values (focus, integrity, respect, self-determination, team) as well as the scholarly habits necessary to navigate their personal lives while attending college. Students will be prepared to capitalize on all that life has to offer. mkeexcellence.org

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