



## **Louisville Education and Employment Partnership (LEEP) Success Story**

### **Why Education?**

Metro United Way is working to advance the common good by focusing on education, income and health. These are the building blocks for a good life—a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family through retirement, and good health.

All children deserve to be safe, healthy, nurtured and prepared to succeed in school and in life. We can achieve this through:

- Improving access to quality, affordable, child care and early learning opportunities.
- Partnering with schools, families, community groups, service providers and neighborhoods to improve graduation rates.
- Supporting after-school and mentoring programs for youth.

When children begin school prepared, stay connected with caring adults, and have empowering experiences, they are more likely to do well in school, graduate from high school, and go on to further education and success in life.

### **Measuring results...2018 Goals and Indicators:**

MUW Goal:

Increase the graduation rate for our community's high school students from 73% to 87% resulting in 1500 more graduating youths in our region.

Indicators (Why this is important):

- Currently, only 73% of students in Jefferson County graduate on time. This number is even worse for African American students – only 50% graduate on time.
- On a national level, every 26 seconds a child drops out of school.
- Every \$1 invested in early childhood education saves \$17 down the road.

Metro United Way supports high-quality programs that demonstrate results in increasing the graduation rates for youth in our community.

### **Louisville Education and Employment Partnership (LEEP)-Kenny's Story**

Kenny joined LEEP in his freshman year at Shawnee High School. In middle school, Kenny had numerous academic issues and his grades and tests scores were below average. He chose to participate in the program because of his sincere desire to pursue his dream of graduation from not only high school, but also college.

During his tenure at Shawnee, LEEP has assisted Kenny in working toward these goals. Assisted by his Career Planners, Ray Hurley and Lisa Collier, Kenny has had the opportunity to take part in college preparation sessions, field trips and career fairs. He has also pursued his desire to become a pilot by his active participation in the Aviation Program offered by Shawnee.

To date, Kenny plans to attend Kansas State University to study Aviation Management.

To recognize his accomplishments, Kenny was selected as the 2008 Student of the Year from this program. Kenny credits LEEP with allowing him and his career aspirations to take flight!

The Louisville Education and Employment Partnership (LEEP), established in 1988, is a collaborative effort between the Jefferson County Public Schools, Louisville Metro Government and Metro United Way. This partnership was formed to provide academic and social services to youth who are at severe risk at dropping out of school. This includes academically challenged, behaviorally challenged, and low income youth. The mission is to develop successful strategies to improve and strengthen student learning and vocational awareness. Success in the partnership is measured by academic achievement, graduation from high school and positive transitions to postsecondary/vocational education, employment or the military. Since LEEP began in 1988, nearly 6,000 students have successfully graduated and made positive transitions.

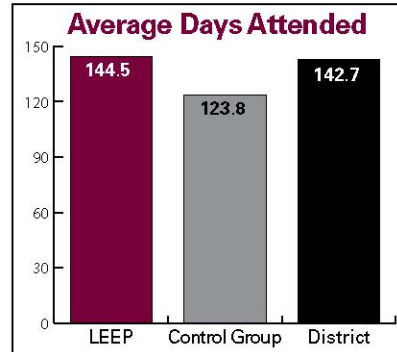
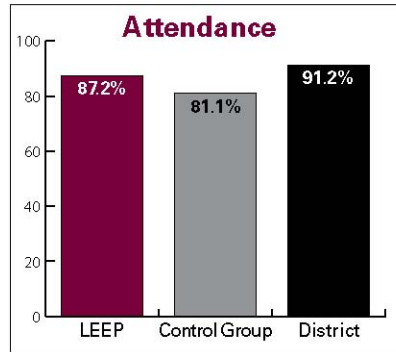
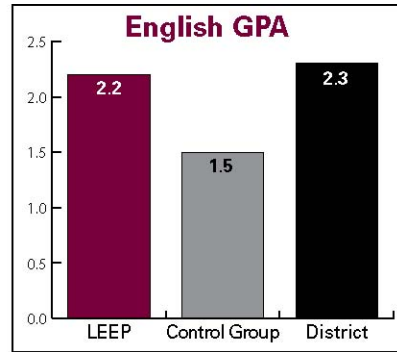
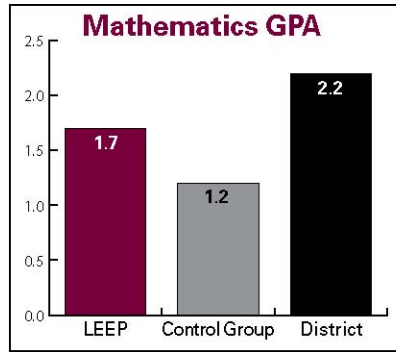
Metro United Way currently invests \$100,000 to support this effort. This contribution helps ensure the continuation of the program and supports the salaries of the career planners involved in the program.



*Kenny-2008 LEEP Student of the Year*

### **Overview/Program Results**

The LEEP Program served 1,056 high school students this year and had 97% of participating seniors graduate high school. Activities included exposure for youth participants to mentors, career planners in the schools, college preparation workshops, job shadowing, workshops on job readiness skills and team building exercises. Below illustrates a breakdown on the positive outcomes of the program from 2007-2008 of the youth who participated in the LEEP Program.



### Here's how you can help:

- Have a student from the program job shadow you for a day. Please call (502) 292-6131 for more information.
- Become an advocate for children. For more information, please call (502) 292-6157.
- Give. With your donation, you will help us meet our goal of ensuring children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed in school and in life. When children begin school prepared, stay connected with caring adults, and have empowering experiences, they are more likely to do well in school, graduate from high school, and go on to further education and success in life.

### Suggested Props/Visuals

- A graph of the Education Pipeline.
- Have someone in your group stand every 26 seconds during your talk, to exemplify the dropout rate statistic.
- A picture of Kenny.

**To live united is to understand that we are all interconnected. Metro United Way is working to advance the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all. For more information, volunteer opportunities or to make a donation, please visit us at [metrounitedway.org](http://metrounitedway.org) or call 502.583.2821.**