Policy Chat Session to Explore the Future of Urban Education in the U.S.

The quality and performance of Indiana’s K-12 public education system has been a highly debated topic. Similarly, one of the nation’s longest-standing debates is in regard to the role and function of public education in our cities. There are stark achievement gaps along racial and economic lines that define the United States education system, and many unique challenges that the urban education system is facing in the 21st century.

As Indiana moves further into the 21st century, it is important to evaluate the state of urban education and discuss the criticisms and successes of this system. To address these and many other critical issues, the Center for Evaluation & Education Policy will present a Policy Chat discussion, “The Future of Urban Education in the U.S.: Where is it Going?” on October 31, 2012, at 2:00 p.m. in the Georgian Room of the Indiana Memorial Union.

The Policy Chat discussion will cover many key issues and questions concerning the future of urban education, including: student achievement and school performance, school accountability, school takeover and private management of public schools, teacher shortages, teacher effectiveness, funding, and school choice options.

Keynote Speakers:
Dr. Eugene White, Superintendent of Indianapolis Public Schools, and Mr. David Harris, Founder & CEO of The Mind Trust, will be the keynote speakers at the event. These individuals hold sharply contrasting views on the topic of the future of urban education in the U.S. and their views have been highly visible during public discourse over the future of Indianapolis Public Schools. Dr. White is the Superintendent of the largest school district in Indiana. He has worked to internally reform the IPS system to improve graduation rates and academic performance on the student and administrative level. Mr. Harris launched The Mind Trust to help reform the education system and improve quality education among all students. The Mind Trust works to create ‘opportunity schools’ and work within schools to improve what is already being done.

Discussants:
In addition to Dr. White and Mr. Harris, Dr. John Houser, Research Associate at the Center for Urban and Multicultural Education at IUPUI; Jason Kloth, Deputy Mayor of Education for the City of Indianapolis; and Tammie Barney (invited), Deputy Chief of Staff for the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, will participate in this discussion.

All students, faculty, staff, media personnel, and community members are welcome to attend.

Topic: The Future of Urban Education in the U.S.: Where is it going?
Panelists: Dr. Eugene White, IPS; Mr. David Harris, The Mind Trust; Dr. John Houser, Center for Urban and Multicultural Education; Mr. Jason Kloth, Deputy Mayor of Education; and Ms. Tammie Barney (invited), Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce
Time: October 31, 2012, 2:00 p.m.
Location: Georgian Room of the Indiana Memorial Union
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