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August 28, 2015

Ms. Yvette Williams
Clark County Black Caucus

Dear Ms. Williams:

The Clark County School District Instruction Unit would like to take an opportunity to update the members of the Clark County Black Caucus on the progress associated with Victory School legislation passed during the 2015 legislative session. First and foremost, I am pleased to again share the news of the appointment of Dr. Celese Rayford to the position of Assistant Chief Student Achievement Officer, Performance Zone 4 and Prime 6. Dr. Rayford will be an integral leader with Victory Schools and will work collaboratively with the community stakeholders, and leaders involved in the Victory School legislation.

Dr. Rayford will work with a team of expert educators to ensure success of this initiative. Dr. Jeff Geihs, Assistant Chief Student Achievement Officer, Performance Zone 14, will work with six newly designated Victory Schools that were Turnaround Schools during the 2014-2015 school year. Collaboration between Dr. Rayford and Dr. Geih's performance zones will assist all students served by this additional monetary support.

Finally, Dr. Eva White, Assistant Superintendent, will now serve as a lead associated with the reporting requirements of the initiative and ensure a commitment to a return on investment with newly-allocated Victory dollars.

After the passing of the Victory School legislation in June, 2015, members of the aforementioned team quickly worked with UNLV faculty to administer a comprehensive needs assessment to all Victory School communities in the Clark County School District. Additionally, a public meeting was held at Charles I. West Prep School on August 7, 2015, providing an opportunity for individual school principals to share findings from the needs assessments. On Wednesday August 12, 2015, over 1000 parents and stakeholders participated in individual school site meetings to provide input for the individual preliminary Victory School plans. Efforts to engage the overall community have been ongoing, comprehensive, and collaborative.

Each school leader involved with this exciting initiative realizes that high accountability and rapid progress are necessary in the short term. School principals will establish goals to align to student growth, proficiency, parent engagement, and monthly benchmarks. In an effort to be transparent, the data points will be readily available to the community and publicized on a website currently in development.

This legislation will assist with the efforts to educate all students in the Clark County School District. We are, of course, thankful and elated that the Clark County Black Caucus played such a critical role in pushing this legislation to fruition. We look forward to the continued partnership, collaboration, and collective focus needed to assist all Victory Schools.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Mike Barton

Chief Student Achievement Officer