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www.mi-ramp.org

TO: Michigan-Reading and Math (STEM) Performance, MI-RAMP: Board members, Donors, Granting Agencies, Community and Parents of Student Participants--MI-RAMP Young Scholars

FROM: MI-RAMP Board of Directors

Executive Board:

- Dr. T. Carter Gilmer, CEO
- Mr. Eric Brown, Co-CEO for Reading
- Mr. Glenn Jackson, Co-CEO for Math (STEM): Science Technology Engineering Math
- Mr. Ron Bettie, Secretary
- Mr. Edward Broom, Jr., Treasurer, and Internal Auditor

DATE: February 15, 2021

RE: 2020 Annual MI-RAMP LETTER

“My proposition is that the M in STEM is the most important element, because it is a language. Math is the language needed to Engineer new Technologies, as well as understand, model, and make new Science discoveries, just as English is the language needed to Read and Write books. Math literacy goes hand in hand with English literacy. An education without a solid footing in mathematical thinking will not result in a successful solution to the problems we face.”

M. Lefkowitz

History and Acknowledgements:

MI-RAMP was conceptually founded in late 2019 to form a novel nonprofit community charity to uplift disadvantaged youth and communities, primarily. A brain-storming meeting occurred at the Southfield Kappa Center with an ad hoc committee of several members of Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity, Inc. It resulted in core volunteers for the Board of Directors and efforts to generate a mission statement. That statement was written by Iolaus Lee and Ellis Hayes:

“MI-RAMP is committed to providing effective strategies for the development, dissemination and application of mathematical and literary knowledge. Moreover, this will serve as foundation for life-long learning and critical thinking, which promotes an accelerated level of quantitative literacy. Thus, producing literate citizens who are engaged participants of a forward moving society”.

Other key events (Nov 2019, others Jan - Dec 2020):

- Nov 2019, Math (pre-calculus) tutorial session; showed urgent need to stress fundamentals
- Novel approach to uplifting children with a tri-fold group; students-parents-teachers/tutors: Staci G. Newton
- Strategy to present to obtain venue: Roosevelt Henderson
- Presentation to Reverend Smalls of Hope United Methodist Church (HUMC; Church and MI-RAMP signed space rental contract before Covid-19 for an all-Saturdays, 20-week program
- MI-RAMP logo and acronym: Phyllis Gilmer/Staci Newton/Ed Broom
- Monthly reports and Financial Summaries: Ron Bettie/Spencer Stanfield/Ed Broom
- Advisory Board structure: Dr. Drew Turner/Ernest Reed/Carter Gilmer
--Arranging Board meetings: Glenn and Susan Jackson
- MI-RAMP 501 (c) (3) nonprofit: Ernest Reed/Carter Gilmer/Staci Newton
- Grant proposals, e.g., Delta Pilots Charity Fund, General Motors Foundation: Dr. Neocles Leontis/Dr. Billy Joe Evans/Marquita Gilmer/Spencer Stanfield/Phyllis Gilmer
--Referrals: Barbara Talley/Ron Thomas/Naurice Roberts
--Potential fiduciary: Southfield Kappa Foundation (SKF), Keith Way/Tracy Parks/Harry Franklin
- Website, www/mi-ramp.org—Collin Wright, Catalina Ariel, Staci Newton
- Applications and job descriptions: Ed Broom/Eric Brown/Pam Parks/Nate Randle/Venus Randle/Steve Suber/Phyllis Gilmer
- Space contract: Detroit Marriott Southfield for 6-month all-Saturdays program: Brent Jones/Eric Brown/Alberta Garrett/Pam Parks/Judge Richard Smart
- MI-RAMP-RF (Relief Fund): Naurice Roberts (Charles Bond), separate 501 (c) (3)
-Families devastated by Covid-19 received \$50 cash gifts from MI-RAMP-RF, Aug-Dec 2020, ongoing
- 160 books donated: HUMC Women/Alberta Garrett/others

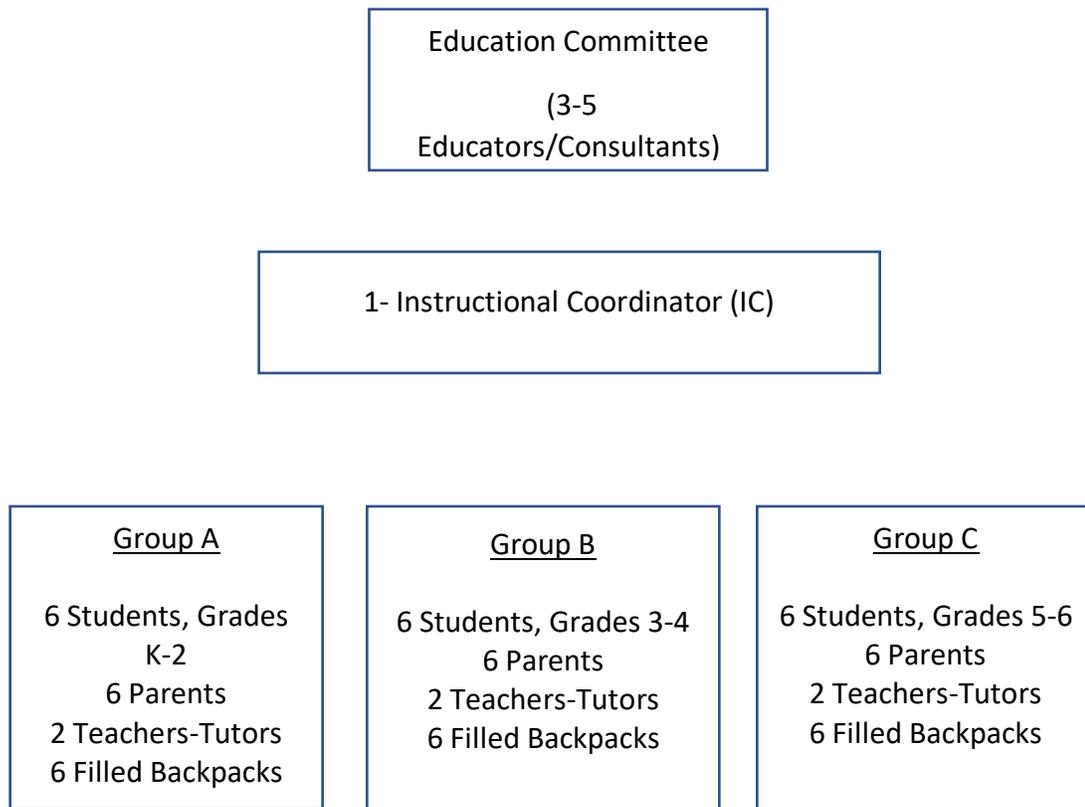
- Distance-Learning 3-month “Bridge to MI-RAMP”, Dec ‘20-March ‘21; 1st. cohort of 7: Pam Parks/Phyllis Gilmer/Ed Broom/Eric Brown
- Directors’ and Officers’, and Liability insurances, effective 1-1-2021: Ron Bettie/Ron Thomas

Model MI-RAMP 6-month program:

The 6-month in-person program for children in 3 groups: A, B and C to: 1) improve fundamentals in reading, 2) improve fundamentals in math, 3) enhance critical thinking ((Does it make sense?)), 4) respect for self and others, 5) accept diversity/differences: Staci Newton/Carter Gilmer—See Figure 1. Define age-appropriate weekly learning targets and measure outcomes periodically. The unique design is focusing on children in an early phase to optimize Rate of Return on Investment (ROI) as described in Figure 2 and covered by concepts of Dr. James Heckman: education leads to skills and capabilities which can be monetized; reflected as increased earnings.

FIGURE 1

MI-RAMP CLASS-RELATED STRUCTURE



Need:

All effective efforts and programs—old, i.e., HeadStart, Leave No Child Left Behind, and new—should be augmented and/or implemented to reverse the ever-growing gap between the haves and have-nots in America. Have-nots are concentrated among black and brown populations who are lagging in education, wealth, and health. Even more disparaging is the lack of equity in education among black and brown men versus women of any color. MI-RAMP is focused on helping those segments of the populations: disadvantaged, poorly educated, minorities.

MI-RAMP emphasizes reading and math. There could be little success without a strong foundation in reading/literacy. The motto, “Education, not Incarceration”, is meaningful-- considering the ‘school to prison pipeline’ is a direct result of one’s reading comprehension and persistence to high school completion. Appropriately and timely, MI-RAMP focuses on reading (and math) so that more marginalized people succeed academically and financially.

Since Covid-19, March 2020, disadvantaged people have even been further negatively affected due to disproportionate:

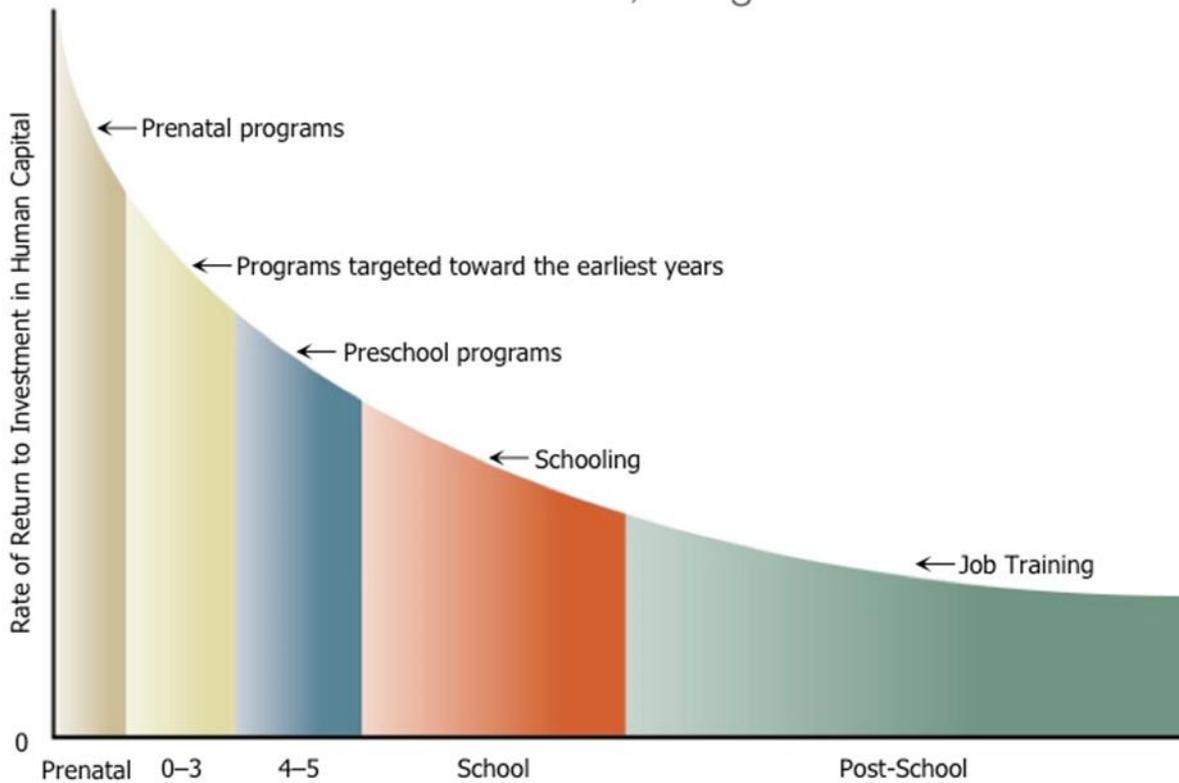
1. Numbers of Covid-19 vaccine shots, resulting in more illnesses and deaths.
2. Educational efficiency as distance-learning with technology became mandatory in homes (the poor often lack such equipment and/or are inadequately trained)
3. Loss of employment (small businesses closing, i.e., barber shops, restaurants, etc.)

Education and formal learning provide the foundation for the development of skills and capabilities as submitted by Nobel Laureate Dr. James Heckman. See the Heckman Curve below (Figure 2) which illustrates that early investment in people, starting with pre-natal care, results in better Rate of Return on Investment (ROI). Key to his conclusions is that the ROI is optimized by early investment in people.

FIGURE 2

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IS A SMART INVESTMENT

The earlier the investment, the greater the return



Source: James Heckman, Nobel Laureate in Economics

Thus, MI-RAMP has targeted early learning for children, our MI-RAMP Young Scholars, from ages 4-1/2 to 12 (grades Pre-K to 6).

Marginal success or failure in grades 1-3 lead to lack of self-confidence, poor foundational skills in reading and math, and further downward spiraling from grades 4-6 and subsequently. This downward pattern often leads to little success in middle school, tendencies to dislike school, de-valuation of education, higher high school drop-out rates, more crime and actions that lead to incarceration; ultimately more poverty.

The MI-RAMP-RF (Relief Fund), a separate nonprofit entity:

In mid-summer Covid-19 was escalating and people worldwide were suffering and dying due to the rare and devastating virus. MI-RAMP's in-person 20-week program, which was slated to start at Hope United Methodist Church had to be postponed; the church had closed temporarily. Thus, we switched to a new initiative to "Help those Suffering" from the Covid-19 pandemic and other devastations. It was simple:

- 8 MI-RAMP Board members each month, on a rotating basis, identify one person or family that they know is suffering due to Covid-19 or some other devastations, which had resulted in loss of income, illness, and poverty. Our modest attempt to provide help with relief was to mail the chosen recipient a \$50 check: one-time cash gift.
- MI-RAMP-RF applied for an got a separate 501 (c) (3) with the purpose of helping those who have been negatively impacted by Covid-19 or some other devastation.
- Solicit donations to fund MI-RAMP-RF

Since August '20, 40 deserving and needy families have received \$50 cash gifts totaling \$2,000. Recipients have expressed enormous appreciation and often describe how timely those blessing were.

Financials:

Table I shows the 2020 balance sheets for MI-RAMP and MI-RAMP-RF. In summary, MI-RAMP received over 50 cash donations and 3 types of in-kind donations:

- MI-RAMP

50 total cash donations: over \$9600

3 categories of in-kind donations: \$1650 (\$550 for backpacks & fillers, \$650 books, \$450 laptop)

Cash on hand: \$4,668

Liabilities: \$0

- MI-RAMP-RF

10 total cash donations: \$2500

Cash on hand: \$148

Liabilities: \$0

TABLE I

MI-RAMP

Statement of Financial Activities and Financial Position

Total Donations	\$11,275.99	Cash	\$4,668.06
		Website	1,204.49
Less: Period Expenses		Org Costs	1,870.00
Office Supplies	289.25	Student Supplies	2,323.02
Publications	135.00	Classroom Lease Deposit	<u>260.00</u>
		Total	
Administrative Assistant	200.00	Assets	<u>\$10,325.57</u>
Travel & Meetings	99.78		
Fund Raising	162.55		
PayPal Fees	<u>63.84</u>		
Total Period Expenses	<u>\$950.42</u>	Liabilities	0.00
		Unrestricted Assets	<u>10,325.57</u>
Increase in Fund Balance	<u>\$10,325.57</u>	Fund Balance	<u>\$10,325.57</u>

MI-RAMP RELIEF
FUND

Total Donations	\$2,546.95	Cash	\$147.68
Less: Period Expenses		Organization Costs	<u>405.00</u>
		Total	
Check Stock	194.27	Assets	<u>\$552.68</u>
Relief Checks	<u>1,800.00</u>		
Total Period Expenses	<u>\$1,994.27</u>	Liabilities	0.00
		Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>552.68</u>
Increase in Fund Balance	<u>\$552.68</u>	Fund Balance	<u>\$552.68</u>

Future Work:

Beyond 2020, MI-RAMP envisions:

- Completing the 3-month “Bridge to MI-RAMP” distance-learning with the 1st cohort of 7 Young Scholars. See Figure 3 which illustrates the interaction between a parent, her two sons and the MI-RAMP math and reading facilitators. It started 12-18-2020 and will end 3-20-2021. Each Young Scholar will receive—as rewards and incentives: a new \$2 bill after every two weeks and a \$25 gift certificate and certificate of achievement after the 3- month bridge program. Each Saturday the Young Scholars and a parent will interact virtual (for example, Zoom or FaceTime) to cover learning targets in reading and math at the age-appropriate level. Progress is tracked and recorded by monitoring the number of sight words a child recognizes from week to week, or their grasp of the times tables, i.e., knowing all the 2’s one week, 2’s, 3’s and 4’s another week then all the 1’s-12’s by end of week #12.
- Starting April 3, 2021, the model 6-month all-Saturdays program as outlined in Figure 1 with Groups A, B, C in tri-fold arrangement per Group (6 students, 6 parents and 2 teachers-tutors)
- Recruiting and starting a 2nd distance-learning cohort of 9-12 students, if Covid-19 prevents MI-RAMP from proceeding with our 6-month in-person program at the Detroit Marriott of Southfield for 20 Saturday sessions per Group.
- Planning an in-person program which is STEM focused to introduce MI-RAMP Young Scholars to computers, --cyber security, searching the worldwide web, etc. in late 2021 or 2022.

FIGURE 3
PARENT AND YOUNG SCHOLARS



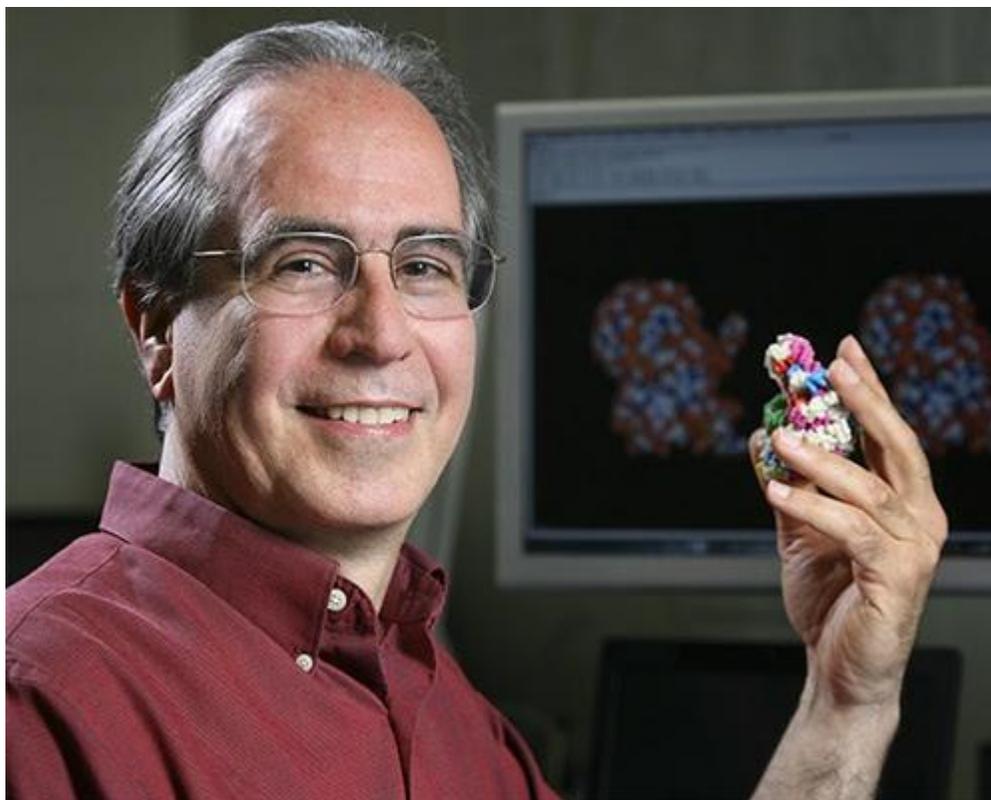
Announcements:

Dr. Neocles Leontis, a dedicated professor of 30 plus years at Bowling Green State University, passed December 9, 2020 from a car accident. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

He was an accomplished professor and biochemistry researcher, whose research centered on molecular modeling of nucleotides, i.e., RNA and DNA. mRNA is active molecule type used in the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to combat Covid-19.

He was extremely active in the Bowling Green community and worked for equity for all--most recently: equal housing and fair practices in the penal systems. Leontis was an original member of the MI-RAMP Board. He received a bachelor's degree from Ohio State University, a masters from Harvard and earned his Ph. D. in biochemistry from Yale University. See Figure 4: Dr. Leontis with model of RNA.

Figure 4 - Dr. Leontis with molecular model of RNA



Suggestions:

- Read website: www/mi-ramp.org
- Recommend students and parents for MI-RAMP. Applications are on the website or see Page 1 for contact information.
- Encourage potential teachers/instructors to complete applications on website.
- **Consider donating to MI-RAMP or MI-RAMP-RF**

Conclusions:

During 2020, MI-RAMP formed a cohesive Advisory Board of 27 which:

1. is well-balanced professionally and planning to become an impactful nonprofit community charity to uplift children both educationally and socially.
2. has designed a unique program with elements to enhance the development of young children from grades K-6 (formative years) to:
 - assure optimum ROI (rate of return on investment) due to early success.
 - include parents in the teaching-learning experience in a tri-fold manner (students/parent/teacher-tutors)
3. has implemented a distance-learning program with another tri-fold arrangement of student/parent/teachers-tutors with a first cohort of 7 Young Scholars
4. has started a relief fund to “Help those Suffering” from the devastating Covid-19 disease
5. will be tested as a model that can augment student learning and development; and can be replicated at other sites in southeast Michigan and elsewhere.
6. believes in,

Education, not Incarceration!