

A Very Successful **FIRST YEAR**



Project Impact's first year has been a tremendously exciting one. In the summer and fall of 2016, Project Impact launched its first three initiatives, reaching more than 2,600 students across the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.

In July of 2016, we introduced Pathway to K—a new program centered on children who had been on a pre-kindergarten waitlist but had not yet had a Pre-K experience. Project Impact's support of Pathway to K allowed 259 of our youngest students to attend a program led by experienced teachers and support staff.

Over the course of three weeks, students were introduced to the academic, social, and emotional experiences of kindergarten. We were thrilled to find that students made significant improvements in all five of the kindergarten Entry Assessment constructs measured during their time in the program—letter naming, book orientation, self-selected activities, grip and manipulation, and object counting. Thanks to Project Impact's support, more students arrived at school prepared for success in kindergarten.

After several years of contracting summer school services, the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools used a Project Impact grant to supplement the existing 2016 summer school budget. As a result, we were able to both staff summer school with highly experienced teachers from the school system and double the number of students served in first through fifth grade. In 2015, two third-grade students gained reading proficiency over the course of the summer—versus in 2016, the number increased dramatically to 157.

In 2016, we also saw the introduction of six new pre-kindergarten classrooms funded by Project Impact at Ashley, Cook, Easton, Hall-Woodward, Ibrahim, and Old Town Elementary Schools. In total, an additional 105 students were served

in these classrooms. We will track these students' progress from their entry to kindergarten through the primary grades to validate the relationship between Pre-K learning and third grade literacy.

In January of 2017, we welcomed Victoria Fulton, a native of Winston-Salem and a graduate of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, as Project Impact Program Manager.

Project Impact has exciting plans in store for 2017–18, which are detailed later in this report. Pathway to K will be offered again in 2017—this year's program will serve at least 280 students and will add an additional day of instruction. Project Impact will also add an additional eight to ten pre-kindergarten classrooms for the 2017–18 school year. Finally, we'll be supporting a series of leadership development programs aimed at building capacity and enabling administrators to lead the change in the District.

Project Impact's first year has been one of hard work, partnership building, and implementing evidence-based programming. We are so grateful for the community support that has made this work possible, and we look forward to continuing to make meaningful changes in the lives of our students.

Dr. Beverly Emory
Superintendent, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools