

PRESS RELEASE

CANTON MIDDLE SCHOOL 801 SOUTH HIGHLAND AVE BALTIMORE, MD 21224

CONTACT DR. CRAIG SPILMAN, PRINCIPAL PHONE (410) 396-9172 FAX (410) 558-3879

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UMBC - CANTON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

IN JANUARY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE COUNTY JOINED WITH THE FACULTY OF CANTON MIDDLE SCHOOL AT THE U.S.F. & G. CONFERENCE CENTER IN MT. WASHINGTON TO MORE CLEARLY DEFINE THE GOALS AND ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP. ADDITIONALLY, THE TWO INSTITUTIONS TACKLED THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO ADDRESS STUDENT DIVERSITY AS A VARIABLE IN ANALYZING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DATA. IN THE MORNING, CANTON'S DISAGGREGATED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DATA WAS EXAMINED BY ALL PARTICIPANTS AND UMBC PROFESSOR - DR. SIGNITHIA FORDHAM, AUTHOR OF BLACKED OUT - LECTURED THE GROUP ON DIVERSITY. AFTER THE LUNCH BREAK, AN INDEPTH EXCHANGE AMONG PARTICIPANTS RESULTED IN IDENTIFYING ACTIONS THAT MIGHT BE INITIATED TO MORE EFFECTIVELY RAISE THE ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS AND PERFORMANCE OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS. THE JOINT MEETING WAS CHARACTERIZED BY A SHARING OF IDEAS AND PRACTICES AS WELL AS ESTABLISHING HIGH LEVELS OF RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S ROLES IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION K-16 AND BEYOND.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL LESLIE DAVIS (396-9172) AT CANTON OR SUSAN BLUNCK (455-2465) AT U.M.B.C.

URBAN SCHOOL WORKING FOR CHILDREN