**WHAT IS CUC2C?**

* CU Cradle 2 Career is a community movement that focuses efforts to maximize every child’s potential to succeed and contribute in our community
* Our mission is to get our whole community working together so that all CU children “are ready to learn” when entering kindergarten and “ready to earn” as young adults

**WHY IS IT NEEDED?**

* Champaign County is the most highly educated county in the state of Illinois1, with hundreds of service organizations and YET…
* 67% of CU students qualify for free or reduced lunch2
* 33% of CU school district children were not “kindergarten-ready” fall 2014.2
* 12% did not graduate from high school;2 one drop-out can cost a community $292,000 in a lifetime3 from lost earnings, government assistance and the criminal justice system.

**HOW CAN WE CHANGE THIS?**

* Get everyone working in the same direction
* Use data to determine what is effective and what is not making a difference
* Direct community efforts and resources based on the data

**WHY IS THIS ANY DIFFERENT THAN WHAT HAS BEEN TRIED IN THE PAST?**

* CUC2C is all volunteer—the agenda is serving the community.
* CUC2C is not another program
* CUC2C remains the neutral convener whose focus is to provide collective impact
* CUC2C assists all entities through research, measurement, leveraging existing resources and creating new opportunities through collaboration

**HAS THIS CONCEPT BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN OTHER LOCATIONS?**

* In greater Cincinnati, the number of children kindergarten-ready increased from 44% to 55% in seven years—that is 432 children4
* The number of Milwaukee 8th graders passing the math proficiency has increased by 3% between 2012-2014.5
* In Kalamazoo, “career preparedness” increased 5% in two years.6

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL?**

* We want you to become a community champion of CUC2C and encourage others to join the effort; there are only three meetings per year
* We will add you to our e-mail list so that you can stay up to date on CUC2C
* We want you to respond to requests for help as appropriate based on your time available and level of expertise
* Go to our website [www.cucradle2career.org](http://www.cucradle2career.org) and click “Get Involved”
* Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/cu cradle2career](http://www.facebook.com/cu%20cradle2career)

1. United Way of Champaign County, Community Report 2012.

2. Illinois Report Card, found at [www.illinoisreportcard.com](http://www.illinoisreportcard.com)

3. From “The consequences of Dropping out of High School,” Sum, A. et al. (2009)

4. From [www.strivepartnership.org](http://www.strivepartnership.org)

5. From [www.milwaukeesucceeds.org](http://www.milwaukeesucceeds.org)

6. From [www.thelearningnetwork.org](http://www.thelearningnetwork.org) The Consequences of Dropping out of High School”