

**NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM ISSUE PAPER:
LEARNING COMMUNITY IS REALLY A WELFARE AGENCY.**

BACKGROUND. The Learning Community (LC) is continuing to accelerate not as an educational aid but as an expanding welfare agency. Examining the LC website and meeting minutes, one readily can see that most of the attention given to welfare activities and not matters that illustrate academic advancement for poor and minority students, an objective supposedly financed by our tax dollars.

WELFARE AGENCY. The LC South Omaha office boasted about its participation in the One World Community Baby Shower and diaper bank initiative, where each participating family with students needing diapers can obtain free diaper packs monthly. This initiative turned the LC North Omaha office into a diaper distribution center. In only a few weeks, huge stacks of baby formula and diapers filled the community room. The new Learning Community Foundation took the lead and raised about \$60,000 to help families in LC programs handle their child diapering needs. Community child care training and coaching for South O child care providers. Parents, not children, offered college prep and planning programs and workshops including homeownership, finance, mental health, nurturing, typing, literacy, and employment. A Parent U. Boo Bash activity invited participants to wear costumes and enjoy a free dinner, Halloween treats and desserts, games, and arts and crafts. Everyone received a



fresh produce box. Add an Opera Omaha Family Day and Family Summer Camp. Through a partnership with the UN-O Service Learning Academy, families discover that college is within reach not only for children but parents. In a series of weekly field trips to the UN-O campus, LC families learn about college life, benefits of a college degree, the process to apply, and how to make college affordable. Parent U. classes are free. Food, childcare, and transportation offered. Courses offered morning, afternoon, evenings, and weekends to best fit family

schedules. The goal is to enhance child education by supporting parents. Parent U. proudly announced the launch of the “Mujeres y Valores” program, a new initiative designed to empower Spanish-speaking mothers, including illegal aliens, to become advocates for themselves and their children. A Parent U. dedicated team connected a single mom to crucial resources such as Rapid Rehousing, helping her secure a place to finally call home. With the help of an LC bilingual instructor and her LC navigator, a woman was able to pass her citizenship test within 6 weeks of setting the goal and is on the path to becoming a U.S. citizen. After lengthy public comment and council discussion, the Buffett Early Childhood team shared a presentation on anti-racism training. This webinar series developed at the request of LC teachers and administrators who completed a regional racism assessment. Educators wanted better preparation to respond to students, especially in the aftermath of the alleged George Floyd murder. A principal from Westside Community Schools described how guidance from the Buffett Early Childhood Institute helped his staff create a more positive racial environment for minority students and families.

TAKE ACTION NOW. The reason that the LC does not boast about and publicize enhanced student academic achievement is because there is no discernable academic improvement. The LC cannot provide definitive proof that a majority of its students enter regular classrooms at an academic level comparable to non-LC students. Since its inception, the LC continually has gravitated away from being an institution devoted to student academic progress and towards providing welfare services to its students and their parents. Our state and local property taxes continue to fund this bloated bureaucracy that never has met its objectives. The only solution is to convince state senators to eliminate it entirely. Lobby your state senator today to sponsor a bill to dissolve the LC. Email netaxpayers@gmail.com for state senator contact information and join our NTF *Education Watch Project*.

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