



OEIB Bulletin - November 14, 2014



From the Desk of the Chief Education Officer

"Is today my day to go to college?" preschoolers at Faubion School regularly ask.

Eight years ago, Portland Public's Faubion School and Concordia University set out to create a "culture of college" through their public-private partnership in NE Portland. A subsequent capital improvement bond launched the process to co-build Faubion School PK-8 with Concordia's College of Education slated to open in the fall 2017.

I had the opportunity to visit Faubion School and Concordia University last week and was impressed by their innovative approach to partnering to inspire learning across the education continuum. More than 200 Concordia student and faculty volunteers per semester serve as mentors, tutors, and reading coaches at Faubion, a Title I, PK-8 school, which serves more than 525 students. Concordia students, preparing to become teachers, are immersed in an urban public school from day one. Meanwhile, Faubion regularly sends children across the street to experience Concordia University's campus, especially its George R. White Library & Learning Center.

Once complete, the building, and the partnerships within, will be the first of its kind in the nation to combine a public school with a private university's teacher preparation program.

It was truly an exemplary model of vision and partnership. I look forward to seeing the impact the co-located schools and integrated models have on student learning.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Nancy Gildea". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.