This joint summit happening because we understand the direct correlation between education attainment and income levels – and for our community between higher education levels and economic prosperity. Simply put – Talent is the key driver to compete in today’s economy.

55K partnership came about to work together toward goal – raising those levels. Will talk about how we are doing. And also note we are in a moment in time – in our nation and in our community – where too many people feel left out of the American dram – where we know we must break the persistent correlation between SES and education achievement and attainment – where the neighborhood you live in should not predict your future – where answers to our workforce challenges mean being more inclusive.

Want to share how Louisville leaders are embracing this challenge in systemic way – how relates to the themes of today, and what you can do.
Start with the data.
LAST YEAR REPORTED STAGNATION (level degree completion and attainment, fed by declining PS enrollment) – THEME WAS FAST FORWARD – NEEDED ACCELERATION! 2015 CENSUS NUMBERS PROVIDE CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION! RECORD ATTAINMENT & HUGE ONE-YEAR JUMP - At 44.7 percent degree attainment we are once again at the highest degree attainment in history! Even more than that, with a three point jump from 41.7% in 2014 we also just had the biggest one year gain in attainment since 55,000 Degrees began! Also we have now added more than 36,000 degrees since 2008.

But not a time to take pedal off the gas. We still need more, better educated people.
NOT QUITE ON PACE - This is really good news, certainly, and accelerates the upward trajectory we’ve been on but we aren’t quite on pace to hit 50% degree attainment. If our current pace holds we will reach 48.8% attainment by 2020.

It is worth noting that we will surpass 55,000 degrees added since 2008 by 2019. But in order to hit the 50% mark we would need to add 67,101 degrees by 2020.
MOVING UP THE LIST OF PEER CITIES - With this jump we also moved up the list of our peer cities from 10th in 2014 to 9th today and flipped places with Greensboro.

Keep in mind the goal is to reach the top tier – and that the other cities are not standing still, creating a moving target. But 50% would move us to 5th, in the top tier.
AS THIS IS REGIONAL SUMMIT: JEFFERSON COUNTY LEADS THE WAY IN ATTAINMENT GROWTH REGIONALLY

Total one-year growth for Jefferson County = 12,735
Total one-year growth for MSA = 15,102
Jefferson Count accounted for 84% of the one-year growth in attainment rate (Associate +) in the Louisville MSA

TRANSITION – Those are the headlines of this year’s data:
1. At 44.7% of the working age population with at least an associate degree, Jefferson County has once again set a new record for degree attainment.
2. The three point jump between 2014 and 2015 is the biggest one year gain since 55,000 Degrees began.
3. Our pace has accelerated toward the 50% goal but on the current trajectory we will still fall short of that mark with a projected attainment rate of 48.8% by 2020.
4. We moved up one spot on our list of peer cities – now #9
5. Region increasing attainment, with Jeff Co driving most of the growth

But as always we wanted to dig deeper into the data in order to better understand where some of these big gains might be coming from and where there are remaining areas of challenge.
ONLY NON-CREDENTIAL CATEGORIES DOWN - Let’s start by looking at attainment disaggregated by education level. In relationship to reaching the 50% goal you could not have drawn this up any better.

The only two categories that went down were the non-credential categories. Those folks with less than a high school degree decreased by a little more than two points and those with some college, no degree went down a full point. All other education levels grew!
BIGGEST MOVES - The biggest one-year changes happened at the less-than-high school and Bachelor’s levels. In fact these categories mirrored one another almost perfectly – less than high school dropped by 9,492 and Bachelor’s degree holders grew by 9,499.

These inverse changes happening in the same year was a big driving factor in the overall attainment rate growth we saw in 2015.
35-44 YEAR-OLDS - In fact we saw a major growth trend overall in the 35-44 year old age category. Of all the nearly 13,000 degrees gained 43% of them were age 35-44. When looking at working age adults 25-64 that’s a large share of the overall growth.

(Outsized proportion were women.)
RACE - Finally, there is more good news to present in terms of racial breakdowns. There was growth in degree attainment across the board. And because there have historically been strategic efforts amongst this group to address the gaps between White and African American attainment with 15K being a prime example, I wanted to highlight not only the growth in African American degree attainment but also the promising news that the gap in attainment shrunk from more than 21 percentage points to just over 18 points.

GREAT PROGRESS – FUEL FOR ACCELERATION. We’ve made great progress but we still have a great deal left to do. Acceleration was called for in last year’s Fast Forward report -- build by powering forward through challenges. Next want to share a bit about how Louisville is embracing the challenges of historic inequities in educational, and economic outcomes. Specifically, students of color, low-income, first generation students not progressing, and often falling out along the pipeline to work, career and productive
citizenship. And at the same time as employers saying can’t find skilled workers. First step – alignment.
Many of you may have attended the recent Mayor’s Cradle to Career Summit – the second since Mayor Fischer first established this framework in 2014.

Before go further, need to be clear – **YOU ARE NOT EXPECTDED to read the details of this slide!** But it depicts several important things.

First, to increase postsecondary completion, must start much earlier and align pathways to make connections to career and workforce needs at the other end.

Mayor Fischer recognized clear need to start earlier – 50% of students enter not ready for kindergarten (not only not know colors and ABCs, not knowing full name, in diapers), So added a leader, MUW, at that pillar -- and on the other end, we were learning not only degrees important, but Majors matter even more to that college wage premium, and many credentials and certificates other than bachelor’s degrees bring good wages. **KW charged**
as pillar lead for connections and pathways to career and jobs in demand. So see four pillars, all with metrics. Loosely aligned CtoC framework - apply collective approach all along the pipeline.

Note also from this graphic that pretty light on the leadership – accountability, ownership to truly integrate services as mayor mentioned. Louisville has attracted interest of national funders and innovators – trying to do this systemically – why?
For years, school reform has minimized or denied impact of poverty and historic racism – saying “no excuses”. But until we begin to deal with those impacts – won’t be able to close gaps. Those 20-30 pt gaps in education stats are mirrored by health and income gaps, and are intertwined with race – today in Louisville, AA unemployment rates are 2.5x as high as white unemployment. In high poverty schools, 28% of students are proficient in reading vs 66% in low poverty schools. And 64% of JCPS students are low income: eligible free or reduced lunch, 123 languages are spoken in JCPS schools, and the student body is majority minority. This is the face of our future workforce.

Kids hungry, haven’t slept, or have untreated asthma – can’t learn. What looks like an achievement gap might be better described as an opportunity gap - summer and after-school experiences, camps. How do we tap into the transportation, health, housing, mental health services to provide the wrap-around supports and extended learning opportunities that more
affluent families provide to their kids? And through postsecondary – JCTC enrolls more African Americans than any other institution, and Simmons has revived its role at Louisville’s sole HBCU. How to create an Insulated pipeline so no leakages.

Two opportunities to plug into national expertise and support to redesign this system.

Harvard By All Means
Say Yes to Education
This year, Louisville was selected by the Harvard Graduate School of Education to participate in a 2.5 year initiative -- By All Means: Redesigning Education to Restore Opportunity.

This initiative is aimed at dramatically redesigning comprehensive child wellbeing and education systems to reduce barriers to learning caused by poverty and racism.

Other participating cities in the initiative include Oakland, CA; Providence, RI; Salem, MA; Somerville, MA; and Newton, MA. Have formed a “Children’s Cabinets” – which are calling our Cradle to Career Cabinet, focusing on three elements to create what Paul Reville has dubbed a systems change engine:

If personalize learning, starting in early childhood, tailor instruction to meet each child’s needs, braid health and social services with schools, and provide access for all to high-quality out-of-school learning opportunities,
then we will ensure that all students – and all means all – will have a much fairer opportunity to achieve success in education and in life.
Even if help, also know that many cannot afford that last step – paying for college.

Part of the answer is helping more understand the difference between sticker price, and the actual cost after financial aid, grants and scholarships. And a required first step to accessing that aid is to complete the FAFSA, the Free Application For Federal Student Aid. We were proud to receive a grant from the NCAN increase that completion rate – and you see here the broad partnership engaged in that work.

This is the kind of work that led to opportunity to partner with another national foundation, Say Yes to Education.
Say Yes to Education represents an approach to take our city to the next level, with a theory of action to implement this systems change – addressing both the whole child and the cost of college. SY Balances a hope-creating promise scholarship, making college a financial reality for all, with a shared governance structure to provide those wrap-around supports and out-of-school opportunities to ensure more kids are college and career ready – able to benefit from postsecondary education and training.

City-wide model – and we are competing to be their next city: ” Using the local scholarship promise and initial $15 million in seed money as leverage, Say Yes seeks to spur each community to provide sustained support for an array of academic, social and health services enabling students to progress along a clearly defined pathway to college and career success. The goal is to substantially increase the number of students graduating from high school and earning college and other postsecondary degrees, eventually joining the local workforce and bolstering the civic and
economic life of the region.

How? Move from collective impact to shared governance – shared planning and budgeting to integrate services and provide supports all along the pathway to postsecondary success. ("stairway to heaven")
To then target services to what kids need, must bring together city/county funding streams with school funds to jointly plan how to better allocate existing dollars, and where gaps might be, at the school system. Those partners, along with higher ed and service providers, form an operating committee informed by task forces, and driven by a community leadership council. The Scholarship team – created as get investment from corporations, high net worth individuals, foundations – becomes the carrot for the families – and the stick to keep the system partners at the table.

We are rolling up our sleeves and pushing to do this hard work, whether or not Say Yes is our partner – running financial models to structuring a promise scholarship while also building the collaborative muscle to braid services and supports.

Need all of you at these tables – Whole school, whole child, whole community approach
Turn over to Michael to share ways making these connections and aligning system components in the workforce.