

STATEMENT OF RONALD W. BROWN

I did not learn until early this morning that I would be expected to say something tonight. So I will be brief.

I have always thought that how a person introduces himself or herself says a lot about how the person sees themselves. So, in chronological order I am a person of faith who is blessed to be Mary's brother, Geri's husband, and Kimberly and Michael's dad.

Education

I earned my undergraduate degree from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, my law degree from Harvard Law School, and my Masters in Business Administration from Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.

Boards and Public Service

I am a member of the Board of the Harvard Law School Association of New Jersey as well as of the Garden State Bar Association. I have served on the Montclair Board of Education, including being Vice President one year and President the next. I have also served on the Planning Board. And in January of 2014 I will conclude 25 years of service as the Board of Education representative to the Township of Montclair's, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Scholarship Fund.

Achievement Gap Advisory Panel

"I hope that the Achievement Gap Advisory Panel will hit the ground as though we were running in the Penn Relays, remembering that we can't produce expected performance without preparation, practice, and focus". We have tried to take steps to do so by providing a variety of resource and reference materials, including but not limited to the following.

- Reaching the Vision for ALL Students: Achievement, Expectations, Opportunities Gap Advisory Panel
- "Culture, Abilities, Resilience, Effort: Strategies for Closing The Achievement Gaps", published by the National Education Association
- "Getting It Done: Raising Achievement And Closing Gaps In Whole School Systems: Recent Advances In Research and Practice, 2008 Conference Report", published by The Achievement Gap Initiative at Harvard University"
- Closing the Gap for Children with Special Needs.
- Improving College & Career Readiness for Special Needs Students, published by the College and Career Readiness and Success Center, American Institute for Research
- Contract of Commitment
- Confidentiality & Non-Disclosure Agreement
- Case Study – Closing The Gap for Students Receiving Special Education Services, Camanche Elementary School
- Case Study-Good to Great, Madison Simis Elementary School
- Challenge the Status Quo--Academic Success Among School Age African-American Males by Ivory Toldson and Chance Lewis, produced by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) Center for Policy Analysis and Research (CPAR), in association with Howard University School of Education and the Urban Education Collaborative at University of North Carolina – Charlotte.

In addition, in responding to our charge, I hope we will think about all of our students with a vision Nelson Mandela expressed this way:

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. **We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be?** You are a child of God. Your "playing small" doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. **We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us, it's in everyone. And as we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.** As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

I am committed to listen, to learn, and to provide leadership in this effort. See this presentation as an illustration of my thoughts about leaders and leadership: <http://www.slideshare.net/180RonWB/newsfeed?redirect=1>

Ronald W. Brown, M.B.A., Esq.