

There's a reason she won our Jacobs Award . . . **Jackie Rowedder will have you applauding for Cincinnati schools**

Cincinnati Public School's Academy of World Languages is a place where English is, by design, the second language for most students. They've come from around the world to assimilate here.

That brings special challenges, and it requires a special leader. Jacquelyn Rowedder is that leader. She is AWL's principal and our 2014 winner of the James N. Jacobs Outstanding CPS Administrator Award, presented during our February Education Awards Dinner.

She is clearly someone who loves her job, and who is, as one nominator said, "Passionate about her babies."

So that our members might get to know her a little better, Cincinnatus asked Ms. Rowedder to answer a few questions for us. Take the time to visit our website and read the full Q&A. But here's a sample, in response to a question asking for a favorite story. It about two new students from Africa:

"They were kindergartners and had never been in a school. They had just come to Cincinnati and were brought to school. Both were frightened and had no idea how to behave in school let alone what anyone was saying to them.



Photo courtesy of Cincinnati Public Schools

"They spent most of that year crying and sitting on my lap, not understanding English or American culture.

"As third graders, those same two students scored two of the highest scores on their State Reading Assessment. These are my favorite stories, the ones that show how resilient and hard working our students are regardless of the adversity from where they come."

See what we mean?

Jackie Rowedder is a winner.

NEW MEMBERS: The Executive Committee approved 2 new members in March: Dr. Ericka King-Betts and Jordan Huizenga. Please welcome them.

NEXT MEETING: May 13th at the University Club on the *CPS Unsung Local Champions Project*, sponsored by the Greater Cincinnati Commitment Alliance. Student presentations will be memorable.

SALUTE TO JAY: The prestigious Indian Institute of Technology recently recognized Jay Chatterjee as a distinguished alumnus. Jay is the retired dean of DAAP at UC. Three cheers for Jay!



ABOUT TONIGHT'S JOINT MEETING

NKY FORUM STARTED IN 2008 TO
HOST PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIALOGUES

For the third time in the past three years, the Cincinnatus Association is partnering with the Northern Kentucky Forum for a joint event of interest whether you live on the north of the Ohio River or the south.

The Forum is much younger than Cincinnatus, but carries a similar mission to examine public policy issues. The mission and operation differ in some significant ways from the approach of Cincinnatus. The Forum does not take positions on issues; rather, it seeks to inform only. It also is not a membership organization. Its events are free and open to the public.

Although the Forum does not take positions, it is happy to serve as a catalyst for action. It is the Forum's hope that attendees, upon learning more about an issue, will want to get involved.

That is exactly what happened, for example, after an April 2010 Forum on government structure in Kenton County. Some of the attendees left committed to seek change.

The Kenton County Government Study Group (a 12-member citizens group) resulted, and that group's 200 page report is providing a roadmap for an ongoing discussion in Kenton County about shared services and local government structure.

The Forum is a partnership of Vision 2015, Legacy, and NKU's Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement.

“We are instituting a comprehensive review of our city’s charter, which has been in place since the 1920s without a comprehensive review. We figure that after about 90 years, it’s about time for it to be looked at.”

—Council Member Kevin Flynn in an interview with WVXU / 91.7 FM



President Mark Silbersack and Council Member Kevin Flynn talked charter at the March meeting.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER / MARK SILBERSACK

Let's make the Charter review our business

In December 2013, Cincinnati City Council approved the formation of a citizens' task force to study the city's charter and make recommendations to the mayor and council on possible amendments. Those in turn would be submitted for voters to approve or reject at the ballot box. Supervision of the task force was delegated to the council's Rules & Audit Committee, chaired by Council Member Kevin Flynn.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Flynn asked that representatives from the Cincinnati Association and the Charter Committee — me and Mike Morgan, respectively — co-chair the task force. With the concurrence of our Executive Committee, I accepted this assignment.

At our March 11th Cincinnati meeting, Mr. Flynn explained the expected work, process, and timetable of the task force to our membership, who had a good opportunity to share their thoughts on this project. At that time, I briefly commented on the role that our association might play, but it may be useful to recap those remarks here.

First, the task force will have about 15-20 members. We hope that several Cincinnati members will be appointed to serve on the task force in addition to me as its co-chair.

Second, the Government Panel will closely monitor the task force's work. When appropriate, it will make suggestions on specific topics and testify about research it has done, in an effort to improve the task force's work product.

The Government Panel will report to the association's members as necessary. And when the task force issues its final report, the Government Panel will make recommendations to our membership about supporting or opposing any proposed charter amendments.

If any member wishes to share ideas about the work of the task force or ideas for Charter amendments, I'd welcome an opportunity to talk about such matters.

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Q: Name a city where the urban core's rebirth has other cities asking: "What's it doing right?"

A: Cincinnati

Some of our members took notice of an article in the April edition of *National Geographic Traveler* headlined "Cincy Chill."

Here's an excerpt:

Indy meets Cincy. Actually, here it's all about "the indies." As much of America decamped for the suburbs or the coasts, artists, craftspeople, and entrepreneurs rebuilt entire Cincinnati neighborhoods alongside impassioned long timers.

When I began hearing about it down in my own adopted renaissance town, New Orleans, I had to see the transformation for myself.

As I sip bourbon with a few such pioneers at Japp's, a former wig store on Main Street, the discussion ranges from the whereabouts of Pappy Van Winkle, the famously elusive bourbon from neighboring Kentucky, to the details of the incongruous bar in front of us, made from cabinets that once housed hair destined to crown the heads of robber baron heiresses.

"What's changed? Why Cincy now?" I ask.

"A shift in consciousness," suggests Peggy Shannon, a former New Yorker. Her start-up, Queen City Cookies, provides a coveted treat for locals as well as a taste of the city's new prospects. "I've lived in a lot of high-energy places, and here the excitement's beginning to percolate."

I watch her spout enthusiasm for her new home, and Cincinnati strikes me as a drum major for a parade of heartland towns—from Milwaukee to Indianapolis—now marching to a different beat.