Project Summary
The partnership between the University of Maryland, College Park and Paint Branch Elementary School was created in 2008 through funding and an advisory board convened by the College Park City-University Partnership (CPCUP), with the goal of being engaged in the life of the local community and bolstering the educational opportunities of youth in College Park and Prince George’s County. This partnership harnesses the resources and expertise of the University of Maryland and the community-serving agencies of College Park to make Paint Branch ES a premier school within Prince George’s County. Through our work we are exposing Paint Branch students to the opportunities and expertise of the University, a broader global perspective, and 21st century life and business skills relevant for building a successful future.

Demographics
For the 2012-2013 school year, PBES has approximately 350 students enrolled in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. According to the Maryland Report Card, during the 2011-2012 school year the student body composition was 39% Black/African-American and about 40% Hispanic/Latino. 19.1% of the school is designated Limited English Proficiency (LEP). Effective this year, the school is no longer a Prince George’s County choice school; students from under-performing schools can no longer choose to transfer to PBES, which has contributed to an almost 13% decrease in student body size. PBES continues to make Adequate Yearly Progress. The administration at PBES pushes innovative teaching, with a school-wide emphasis on interdisciplinary project-based instruction and a unique program of teaching Chinese language through Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) immersion.

Results
This year, teachers and students at Paint Branch ES have been able to take advantage of a number of programs and resources provided through the Paint Branch ES Partnership.

Mentorship & Tutoring – One way in which the Partnership encourages academic success at Paint Branch ES is by providing mentoring and tutoring programs to students.

✓ Through the Lakeland STARS program, a long-standing joint initiative of the College Park Scholars program and the City of College Park’s Youth and Family Services Department, mentorship and tutoring opportunities at both UMD and at Paint Branch ES occur weekly.
To promote the academic success of students for whom English is a second language, Scholars and the Youth and Family Services Department teamed up this spring to begin a second after-school tutoring program at the PBES. “Imagine Learning” brought UMD students to PBES for seven sessions, providing a total of 57 hours of academic support to the PBES ESOL student population.

The Partnership expanded our relationship with Maryland Athletics and the Student Athletic Advisory Council (SAAC) to bring UMD student athletes to read to Kindergarten and first grade classes at the school, providing a total of 35 student hours during the year.

To supplement the dedicated arts instruction that PBES students receive, the College Park Arts Scholars and Public Leadership Scholars brought three groups of students provide Art activities for the children at PBES through their Community Based Learning project. These projects were designed to address the school’s need for reinforcement of the school’s year-long project based learning goals.

The Scholars Arts program brought 25 students to Paint Branch to touch up and add to murals throughout the building as part of an annual Service Day.

In April, UMD’s Dr. Susan Hendricks brought students from her Art Education Methods Course to teach PBES students an art lesson that was in line with curriculum content.

Grades 2, 3 and 5 participated in UMD tours in conjunction with trips to visit campus sites related to their classroom learning (Capital One Bank, Office of Leadership and Community Service Learning, UMD Public Safety, UMD Language House and the UMD Arboretum).

Students from UMD’s Multicultural Involvement and Community Advocacy Office (MICA) read to PBES students as part of the Black History Month Read-In.

Partnership Coordinator Emily Adams taught a lesson on print journalism to 5th grade classes.

**Strengthening Our International Ties** – The Partnership continues to support Paint Branch ES’ plans to expand and strengthen its world-class Chinese language immersion program. We also strive to create and maintain a variety of international ties expose our students to a diversity of cultural experiences that relate to the school’s year-long project based learning activities.

This spring, the Confucius Institute at Maryland (CIM) coordinated several Chinese cultural activities at the school. CIM also arranged for a generous donation of Chinese-related books and decorations from Hanban, a non-governmental organization associated with the Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China.

The Partnership hosted a breakfast at PBES to celebrate the accomplishments of the people who brought Chinese language program to the school four years ago. Invitees included individuals whom the board identified as having the potential to advocate and support for the Chinese language program’s programmatic and financial needs in the key areas of 1) study abroad opportunities and 2) year-round cultural programming at Paint Branch ES. The breakfast featured special guest Anita Kung Tong, a distant relative of Confucius and a major financier of Chinese language and cultural programs. A promotional video for the program and student performances in Chinese were also showcased.

The UMD Caribbean Students Association was invited to host SOCAsize, a dance workshop, for all grade levels.

In the fall semester, one of the College of Education’s Distinguished Fulbright Teachers spent one day per week at Paint Branch ES.

**Guest Scholars** -- To promote the continued excellence of the school’s Autism Program, UMD Department of Special Education’s Dr. Andrew Egel provided a workshop to general & special ed.
teachers on behavioral management for students with dynamic and static autism. Additionally, UMD School of Public Policy’s Dr. R.H. Sprinkle, UMD School of Public Policy’s Sam Corvah, and City Councilman Monroe Dennis participated in Career Day at Paint Branch ES.

Professional Development for PBES Instructors – The UMD College of Education Office of International Initiatives and the Department of Curriculum and Instruction provided teachers and administrators with 16 hours of training in the area of internationalizing education.

Training Pre-Service Teachers – Marking the 4th year that PBES served as a Professional Development Site for the College of Education, 5-7 pre-service teachers gained experience in the elementary school classroom for 2 days a week in the fall and 5 days a week in the spring semester.

Strengthening Relationships with Parents -- M-NCPPC representatives on the advisory board provided the PBES student body and teachers with ticket vouchers to attend a UMD sporting event with their families. Additionally, in response to concerns from the PBES Parent-Teacher Association, the Partnership coordinated the repair of the school’s outdoor basketball court, replacing 2 of 4 headboards, repainting the poles and installing new nets.

Promoting Sustainability

✔ The UMD Recycling and Solid Waste Program supported PBES’ efforts to comply with the PGCPS Recycling Mandate of 2012 by outfitting the school with recycling bins for each room, enabling the school to begin paper recycling in 2012 and mixed-container recycling in 2013.
✔ UMD Sustainability and UMD Recycling hosted a school-wide assembly to kick off the recycling program and educate students about recycling. UMD Recycling participated in a ‘no waste’ lunch competition at the school and worked with the College Park Arts Exchange to provide a workshop on building a robot out of recycled materials to the school’s recycling club.

Future Actions to be Taken

In the upcoming program year, the focus of the PBES—UMD partnership will be to sustain the current levels of support in the existing goal areas and develop deeper increases in the support provided in these areas while strategically re-focusing our efforts to have a measurable impact on key indicators of success. The Partnership’s efforts to support academic achievement, for example, will focus on impacting areas where PBES student test scores are low. Our work to increase dedicated arts instruction will focus on impacting student attitudes about school and other measurable indicators of the benefits students receive from art education.

The Partnership will continue to dedicate significant time and attention to supporting the continued excellence of the Chinese language program offerings at Paint Branch ES.

At the same time the Partnership will expand our network of support by developing further partnerships with Center for Chinese Language Teacher Certification and Development (CCLTCD) and local organizations with missions relating to promoting understanding of Chinese language and culture; UMD’s School of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies; UMD’s Multicultural Involvement and Community Advocacy Office; and UMD’s Language House.