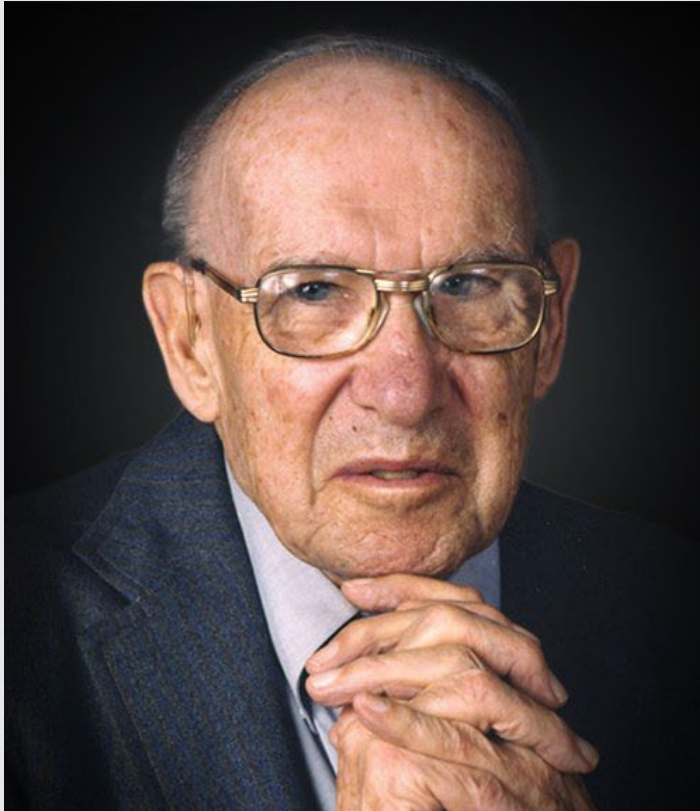




AACRT
AFRICAN AMERICAN
COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM



North Star Network



The greatest **danger** in times
of turbulence is not the turbulence;
it is to **act with yesterday's logic.**

— *Peter Drucker*

What is the North Star Network?

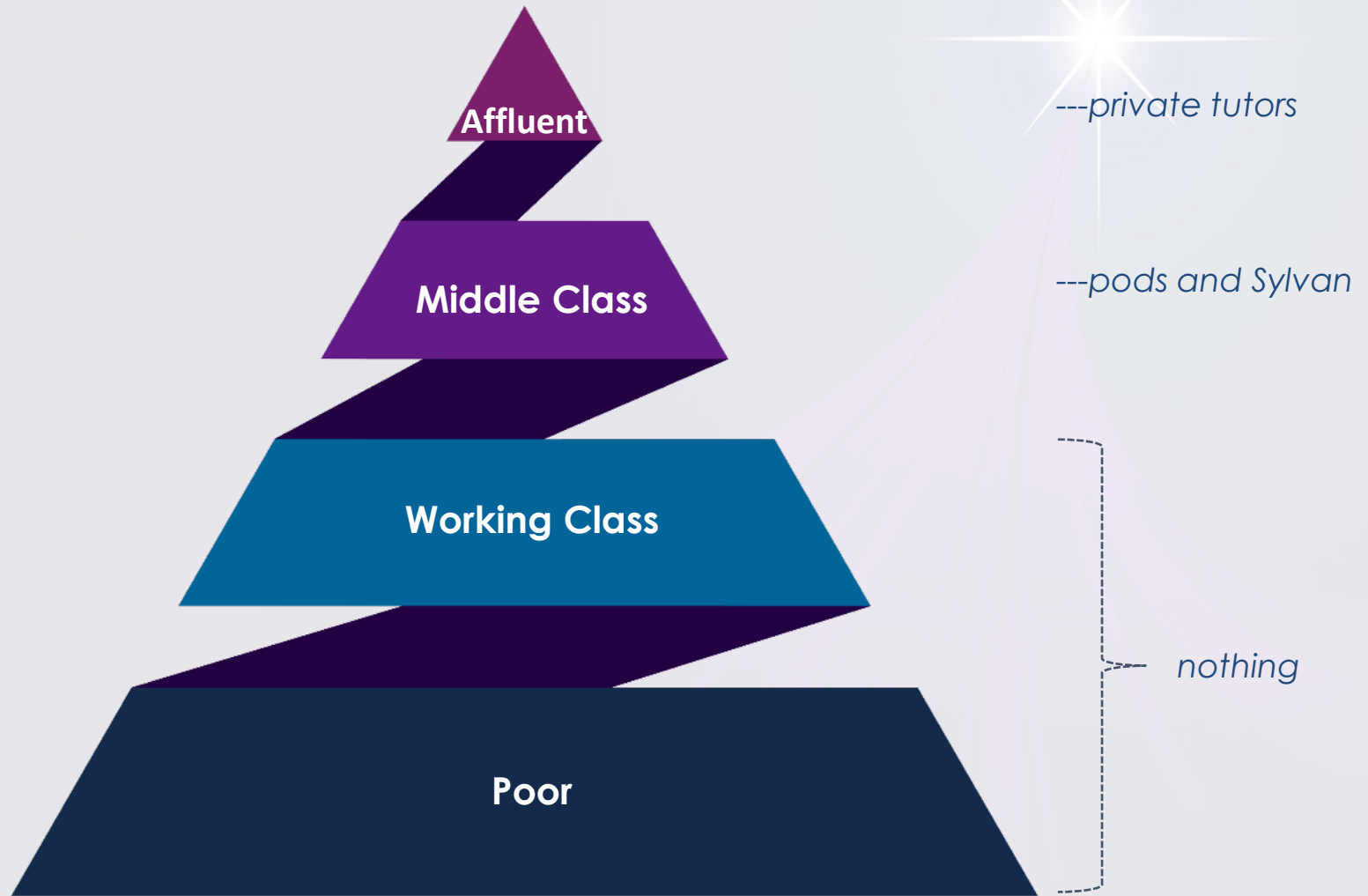
- The North Star Network (NSN) is a new initiative representing a shift on the part of the African American Community Response Team (AACRT) from immediate pandemic response and recovery to reinvention.
- A quality education for all children
- Utilizing the genius of the community, existing relationships, and the broad experiences, the NSN will create an ecosystem of learning and excellence in a time of upheaval by filling a leadership vacuum that has seen African American communities let down time and time again.



Our Problem: Separate and unequal in the digital world

- A recent *New York Times* column outlined the pressing concern of millions of parents around the country:
 - How is it possible to return to in-person schooling in the midst of a deadly pandemic, which could threaten the safety of students, teachers, and families?
- In the event of distance learning, how can parents juggling work and parenting also take on the role of educator?
- While the affluent has the money to ensure a quality education, the working class and poor do not.
- Many African American youth are already behind academically and cannot afford to lose more ground. There is an urgency to act now: to react, to recover, and reinvent. This is the problem before us.

A DEEPER DIVIDE – BETWEEN THE HAVES & HAVE NOTS



Achievement gap and coronavirus | McKinsey

"Learning loss will probably be greatest among low-income, black, and Hispanic students. Lower-income students are less likely to have access to high-quality remote learning or to a conducive learning environment:

- such as a quiet space with minimal distractions,
- devices they do not need to share,
- high-speed internet,
- and parental academic supervision.

They could lose 12 months of learning."

AACRT finds the solution

This summer the AACRT experimented with an approach utilizing a *Get on the Bus* campaign providing Mobile Learning Labs for youth.

- Mobile Learning Labs are buses outfitted with AC, Wi-Fi access, and staff support. Youth participate in two-hour socially distanced sessions per day onboard the Learning Labs.
- Chromebooks are in the Labs for synchronous & asynchronous lessons.
- Tutors are on hand to assist with study. Leveled libraries for silent, sustained reading are also available. Lessons in reading and math and outdoor activities supplement study time.
- Each bus can serve 10 youth per session. AACRT has mobilized 10 buses, which run 3 shifts per day, serving 300 youth daily.



Safety

- The buses adhere to safety and sanitation protocols to keep everyone safe and healthy.
- Our summer *Get on the Bus* campaign had no COVID-related incidents due to strict safety protocols. The effort succeeded by providing kids with a quiet and safe space for studying.
- This includes a community health worker stationed on the bus, vinyl wipe-off seats, and buses and equipment sanitized between sessions.
- Gloves and masks are given to students, hand sanitizer utilized, temperatures taken before getting on the bus, etc.



The *New York Times* column offers an evolution of this successful approach:

*“There is a better way: **Allow schools to offer only virtual classes this fall, and convert schools and other large unused spaces into Safe Centers for Online Learning. We could call them not schools, but ‘SCOLs’**[...] students who can keep learning at home should do so. As a result, the centers would not be crowded, and it would be possible to maintain social distancing.”*



Community-based Zoom Learning Labs (Safe Study Space System-S4)

- Using the Mobile Learning Lab model as a pilot, the North Star Network is now **expanding to Community-Based Zoom Learning Labs in response to the extension of distance learning for K-12.**
- Distance learning represents the collapse of American education for African American students.
- Sets them up for a life in the misery management machine of charity, prison, and welfare — a multi-billion dollar industry in Hennepin County.



- We view the NSN as more than a babysitting service for the public schools. **We will utilize local assets of our community and take advantage of technology to recruit the best and the brightest African American minds** from across the nation to deliver instruction.
 - **Demands that the community take a greater role and responsibility in the education of children. This is not temporary.**
 - Provides capacity to tap into corporate volunteers, college students, retirees and educational professionals from around the country.
 - The Zoom tutoring corps that can participate from anywhere
 - Achieves unprecedented diversity
- Remote learning represents an opportunity that could not be achieved under normal circumstances.

HOW WILL WE DO IT?

Prototype development:

- Controlled environment
- Immediate problem/failure detection
- Lessons learned are easily Adopted
- Documents protocols

Pilot Deployment

- 7 sites x 50 kids
- Limited expansion
- Tests administrative, logistical and evaluative controls

Full rollout: 70 sites

National Expansion

HOW WILL WE DO IT: 5 ELEMENTS

Safety first and last

- Dispersion
- Protection
- Detection
- Action

Un-used facilities in the community

- Churches
- YMCA
- Community Centers

Use Technology to supplement school instruction

Build a national network of African American tutors

Provide supports: mental health, food, transportation

IN DEVELOPMENT: COMMUNITY LEARNING HUBS

Date	Key Action Items
8/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Finalize the real estate specifications▪ Identify prototype site▪ Select personnel for pilot
8/11-8/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Identify personnel for prototype
8/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Identify the (7) pilot hub sites▪ Finalize site management requirements▪ Finalize preliminary budget
8/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Obtain requisite funding commitments▪ Begin prototype▪ Market to families for pilot hubs
8/31	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Finalize and secure educational content, instructors, tutors.
9/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ After action review of prototype site
9/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ "Go Live" with pilot (7 hubs)
Date - TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Full Roll out

RESOURCES REQUIRED

- \$300,000 for prototype
- \$2.1 million for pilot
- \$25 million for adoption
- Political support for federal contract
- CEO leadership with BRG's
- Support for UNCF involvement

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

Academic achievement

Positioning for permanent community involvement in education

Forge on-going partnership with business based on mutual interests

- Jobs
- Thriving businesses
- Productivity
- Integration into education beyond COVID

SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES

Meals

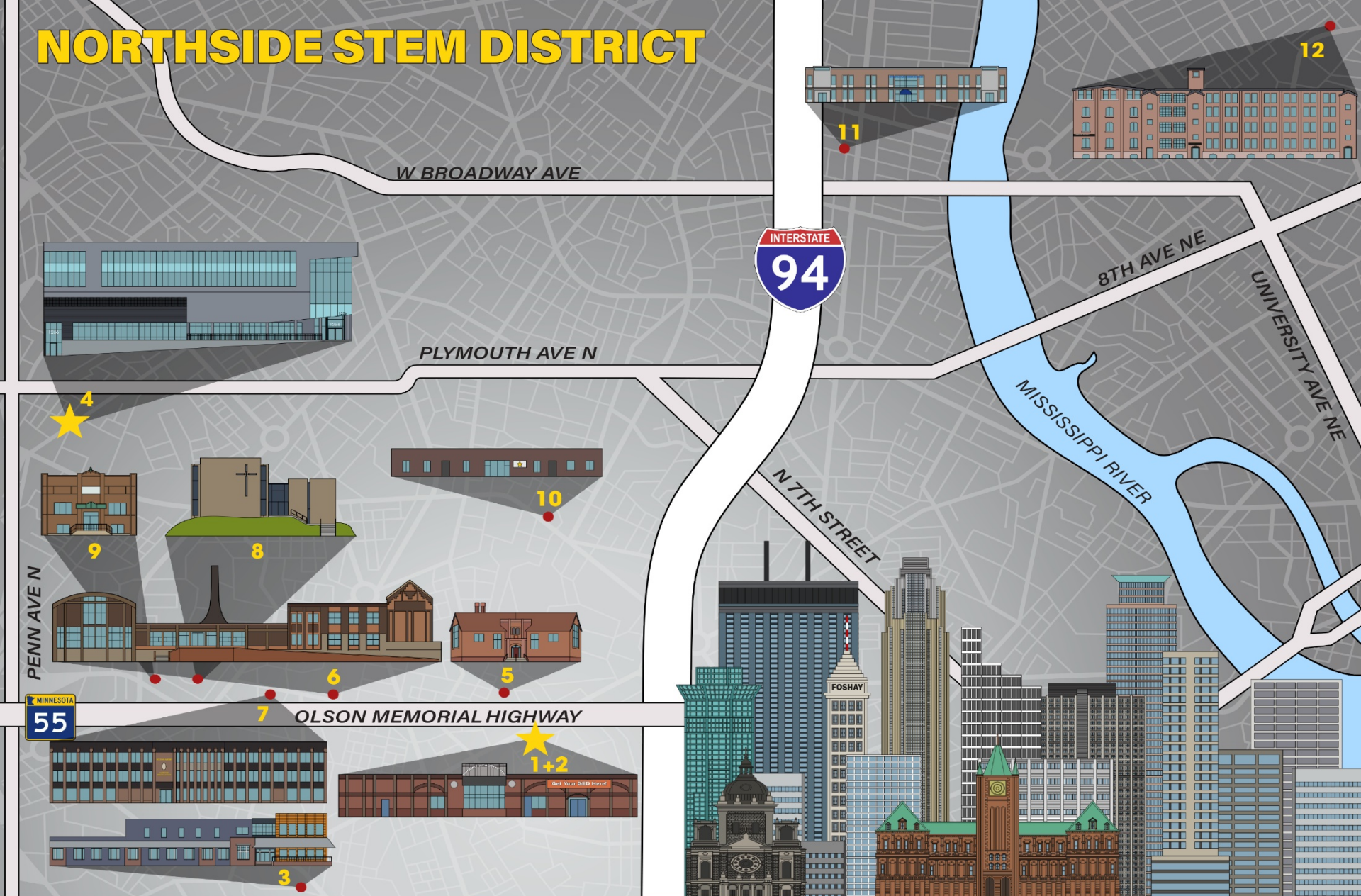
Recreation

Mental health

Transportation



NORTHSIDE STEM DISTRICT



1. Summit Academy OIC
2. Summit Early Learning Center
3. Cora McCorvey YMCA

4. North Star Innovation Center
5. Sumner Library
6. Harvest Best Academy

7. Harvest SEED Academy
8. Zion Baptist Church
9. La Crèche Early Learning Center

10. Phyllis Wheatley Community Center
11. Minneapolis Park & Recreation
12. Spark-Y