

Knowledge Workers Committee Notes
Oct. 9, 2009

Assignments:

1. Review benchmarking submittal and analysis.

- a. Clarified that the reason for the low rate of people getting degrees while living in Dakota county as they go to school in a neighboring county. This is likely to increase the overall Knowledge Workers score.
- b. Need for more higher education in Dakota County which will result in better labor flow. Now is a good time for laid off workers to pursue higher education.

2. Review, edit and adopt the draft work group goal.

- a. Does definition of knowledge worker exclude some population, for example, farmers? "Skills to acquire, process and use information" That definition would be inclusive. Should goal for this group have better verbiage to be more inclusive? Goal statement discussed and revised to reflect inclusive language which will encourage buy in from general population.
- b. Revised version handed out that morning is:
 - i. Create and grow an environment where all Dakota county residents and workforce have the opportunity to be lifelong learners and gain the education and training necessary to be knowledge workers and attract additional knowledge workers for entrepreneurial and employment opportunities.
 - ii. Is this better? - *Create and grow an environment where all Dakota county residents and workforce have the opportunity to be lifelong learners through additional education and training. This basis of educated workers will in turn attract additional knowledge workers for entrepreneurial and employment opportunities.*

3. How do we get to be a "5"?

- a. Group discussed this a bit. Answer from Robert seemed a bit vague. More educated citizens? Keeping educated citizens?

4. Who else might be currently engaged in this topic and interesting in participating?

- a. Bring in curriculum folks from the schools
- b. Bring in local businesses so students can learn about exciting jobs and learning expectations.
- c. Someone from libraries.
- d. Someone from University of Minnesota (U-more?) and Hamline
- e. Add existing business leaders –someone from Unisys, Lockheed, Uponor, Thomson

Other discussion points/possible next steps:

- Expose kids to career opportunities?
- What are "hot" degrees in at schools?
- Lakeville Chamber of Commerce model for working with schools

- Where are gaps?
- What do 4 year schools want?
- Do a SWOT analysis
- Where's competitive niche?
- What are businesses looking for from education?
- What industries are here in concentrations that create wealth?
- What is the relationship of them to education?

Next meeting is Nov. 6, 2009

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