

**Entrepreneurship & Small Business
Alliance Meeting
January 6, 2009
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
CCSR**

Attendees: Rob Koger, Jim Holt, Trish Brasted, Tom Phillips, Nick Ayon, Bryon Watkins, Marc Howell, Pat Carney, Roger Douthett, Dan Ledeboer, Wayne Bell, Kendall Heier

Notes

1. Welcome & Introductions – Alliance Member

- Approved minutes/notes from last meeting

2. Visioneering Update – Suzie

- Review, Review and Refocus Initiative is underway.
- Meeting will be held to review the strategies within each foundation to determine accomplishments and priorities going forward.
- Economic Development Strategies Review (this alliance falls under this area) is Feb 4th, 3:00 – 5:00, WSU Metroplex, Sudermann Room.

3. Review Action Steps Areas – CCSR

4. Presentation: Dan Ledeboer, Director, Quest Center

- Incorporated in 1986-87 in Hutchinson to support the economy and meet the needs of potential small business owners.
- Thus far there have been 800-1,000 jobs related to the “incubator”.
- Financing options is their “niche” right now due to the economy – work closely with SCKEDD – this is not a normal role for an “incubator”.
- Center has several types of office spaces with the majority being 1 & 2 person offices.
- Funding is .5 from county and .5 from tenant revenue and grants to cover building expenses.
- Budget has never exceeded \$200,000
- Provide consolidated services such a receptionist; copy machine; postage machine.
- Tenants work together and support each other. Also provides them with networking opportunities.
- Rent is based on a square foot basis and services needed and used by the tenant.
- The stay period is generally 6 – 12 months.

- Have 2 anchor tenants that have stayed for 10 years.
- Recently, helping secure financing has become a big service.
- Center is providing low overhead options and networking opportunities.
- Marketing is done by staff by talking to community groups and financial institutions.
- Future of the center is to update the infrastructure – new building is not an option.

5. Questions & Answers w/Dan

- Included as part of presentation notes.

6. Discussion – Types of “Incubators”

- Incubators such as retail, high tech, and industry driven have all met with various successes.
- We need to decide if necessary and what kind.
- Chester Daniel, Urban League, made a brief presentation about an “incubator” he was involved with in Jacksonville, Florida.
- Mr. Daniel would like to see one developed in Wichita and is willing to lend his expertise.
- Members discussed: “Where do we go from here”?
 - Who’s doing what?
 - How can we work together?
 - What is the involvement of this Alliance?
- Alliance recommended that the Leadership team address this issue and bring back a proposal for Alliance to consider.

7. Next Alliance Meeting

- Will not meet in February due to Economic Development Strategies meeting for the 3 R’s project.
- Leadership team will meet on January 27 at 9:00 a.m. to develop a proposal for an “incubator” for Alliance consideration.