



# Visionering Wichita Literacy Alliance

Meeting Notes  
December 5, 2007

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**Economic Development Vision:** Before 2024, the Wichita MSA will be a leading community for retaining and expanding current businesses and creating and recruiting new businesses.

**Benchmark: Workforce Development:** Retain our existing and future workforce and recruit new workers from outside the Wichita MSA. A larger skilled, educated and creative workforce is imperative.

**Education Vision:** Before 2024 the Wichita MSA will have a globally competitive educational system that encourages and supports life-long learning and contributes to the social, cultural and economic vitality of our diverse community.

**Benchmark: Skills Training and Life-long Education:** Provide a world-class system and facility for adult basic education, technical education programs and customized training. Adult basic education will provide the soft skills and literacy necessary for potential employees to be competitive.

To accomplish these benchmarks, the Literacy Alliance provides a process by which Wichita MSA groups, organizations, coalitions, and other Visionering alliances can develop a comprehensive approach to the improvement of literacy.

**Meeting Participants:** *Linda Sorrell, Joyce Stockham, Lindy Kralicek, Deanna Carrithers, Kristi Zukovich, Bill Buchanan, Mary Galvin, Mohan Kambampati, Raye Street, Cathie Hay, Margaret Harris, Mark Eby, Kendall Heier, Tim Norton, Dianne Glass, Carolyn Bunch*

**Purpose of Literacy Alliance Meeting:**

- Continue work of the Literacy Alliance
- Review Draft Survey for Community Organizations
- Develop 'Benchmark' for this Alliance
- Dialogue with Dianne Glass, Kansas Board of Regents
- Discuss Next Steps

**Welcome & Introductions:**

Tim Norton, County Commissioner, welcomed everyone and expressed his ongoing interest in 'taking adult basic education to the next level.' Suzie Ahlstrand then thanked everyone for their attendance. Meeting participants introduced themselves and stated what organizations they represented.

**Review of Draft Survey:**

CCSR staff provided a draft survey for participants' review and comment. Margaret and Carolyn completed the online survey and provided feedback. CSSR staff will make necessary edits based upon the feedback received and develop a final version. The e-survey will be sent to various community organizations as listed in the October 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes. County staff agreed to assist CCSR in compiling a list of organizations and contact persons for the e-survey. Survey results should be available by the next meeting.

**Development of a Benchmark for the Alliance:**

Suzie explained that the Visionering Alliances develop measurable benchmarks to report progress back to the community. These benchmarks tie back to the Visionering key benchmarks. As an Alliance the benchmark will show progress being made. Participants were provided with strategies

that this alliance could fall under. The Leadership Team will draft a benchmark for consideration at a future meeting.

**Comments from Dianne Glass, Director of Adult Education, Kansas Board of Regents:**

Tim welcomed Dianne and thanked her for agreeing to address the alliance. Dianne showed a PowerPoint presentation with statewide statistics pertaining to adult education. A summary of the presentation follows.

- Kansas Adult Education is funded under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.
- The purpose is to assist adults with the skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency.
- Funds are to be used for instruction. Participants may not be charged an instructional fee. However there may be a materials fee charged. When there is a financial investment on the part of the participants it is perceived as having more value.
- There are currently 30 programs in approximately 80 locations.
- GED preparation is a small portion of the participants. ESL is the largest group served.
- More than 246,140 Kansans (over age 25) qualify for adult education services.
- National Center for Education Statistics state the average freshman graduation rate for public high schools in Kansas is 76.9% (school year 2002-2003).
- 7,000 students drop out of high school – each year – there is not going to be a place for these individuals in the workforce.
- Population served
  - ½ under the age of 25
  - 2006 largest group served – Hispanic – not all ESL
  - Perception these adults are unemployed – not so
  - Perception these adults on welfare – not so
- Statistics shows invest in the parent also investing in the children.
- Perception GED testing easy – 45% of graduating seniors in US & Canada can not pass the Kansas GED test.
- Kansas has one of the highest number of completers in the US.
- Mind shift for learners & educators – high school diploma is no longer good enough – need to go further in education.
- The cost to Kansas
  - Participant - \$125 state funds, \$741 state & federal funds
  - Learner outcome (some learners achieve more than 1 outcome) - \$97.00 state funds, \$426 state & federal funds
  - K-12 per child - \$4,000
- Kansas has an exemplary program – other states want to replicate it.

There was a good exchange of information during the presentation. Dianne stated that funders look favorably on collaborative efforts and encouraged participants to continue working together. Tim asked Dianne if she would attend a future meeting and assist the group in developing a strategic funding model. Dianne stated that she would be pleased to meet again with the alliance. The participants thanked Dianne for her comments.

**Next Steps:**

The Leadership Team will meet on December 17th, @1 pm at the Center for Community Support & Research [Self-Help Network]. During this meeting, the Leadership Team will develop an agenda and begin drafting a benchmark. A meeting notification will be forward to all meeting participants plus other identified individuals as well.

The next Literacy Alliance meeting will be held on January 9<sup>th</sup> @3:30 pm at the Center for Community Support & Research [Self-Help Network].

The Visioneering Wichita Strategic Plan is available at [www.visioneeringwichita.com](http://www.visioneeringwichita.com).