



**Visioneering Wichita
College Mecca
Close the Education Gap Task Force
Notes from November 14, 2007**

Attendees: Alicia Newell, Carolyn Parson, Anna Villarreal, Criss Palacioz, Margaret Harris, Tony Myers, Bobby Gandu, Tom Borrego, Adrienne Churchill

Purposes for Today:

1. Focus
2. Reframe
3. Content Needed
4. Next Steps
5. Agenda for next meeting

Focus on Time

- Middle School (8th grade) – in order to close the gap need to start further back
- High School – more immediate (9th – 12th) – main focus

Focus on Age

- High School

Focus on Population

- At least 2 sub-groups
 - Those who have the elements but have not “put it together” (low-hanging fruit)
 - For some reason this group has not seen college as an option
 - They do not know how make it happen
 - Those who are on the path to a lifestyle not leading to further education
- Parents are the doorway to the youth
- Income level needs to be attended to
- There is a start to education but no end – life-long learning

Focus on Geography

- Visioneering covers 9 counties
- Critical mass of youth closer to Wichita (also Hutchinson, El Dorado)
- Be careful not to focus only on Title 1 schools
- Tie into the New Communities initiative

Focus on Approach

- Call to Action & Inform

- Is this group (task force) more of a marketing group – getting the message out?
- 1st generation students
- Celebrate our successes + activities – focus on education gap
- Pivotal times across institutions
- Work individually + collectively (could there be a “community based” initiative?)
- Open the door to all possibilities
- Tie into Visioneering Literate Community Alliance
- Not about more work

Re-Frame

- What does “college” mean?
 - Lifetime – retool over time
- Consortium
- Good for our community
 - How can we not be involved?

Next Steps

- Celebrate
- Case statement
- Programs beyond our MSA

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, December 12th, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Center for Community Support & Research, 358 N Main, Wichita.