



Entrepreneurism & Small Business Meeting

April 20 – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

WSU Hughes Metro Center – 5015 E. 29th St. North - Wichita

From: Suzie Ahlstrand

Visioneering Wichita completed Phase I in December, 2004 which brought together over 9,000 area residents along with government and community leaders to understand and address the significant challenges facing our (MSA) Metropolitan Statistical Area of Sedgwick, Harvey, Butler and Sumner counties. The result of this unprecedented effort was the publication of a 20-year strategic plan and vision for our metro area (see www.visioneeringwichita.com for plan).

Now is the time to start on that plan. *Visioneering Wichita* is forming alliances around six priority areas: Entrepreneurism & Small Business; MSA as a College Mecca; Mentoring in our K-12 Systems; Health Care; Racial Diversity, Opportunity & Harmony; and a South Central Kansas Unified Legislative Agenda.

Your organization has been identified as a needed valuable asset to begin an exploratory discussion regarding the formation of a strategic alliance on Entrepreneurism & Small Business. You are invited to attend this initial meeting which will specifically discuss the following:

Entrepreneurs and Small Business

Create an entrepreneurial and innovative mecca for direct value-added businesses by:

- a) Building on the Wichita MSA's entrepreneurial tradition.
- b) Supporting entrepreneurs with a positive business creation environment – low taxes, regulatory friendly, customer friendly government support and legal and regulatory structures friendly to the creation of new business.
- c) Developing sources of capital from angel investors to venture capital firms including small business loans and Small Business Innovation Research Grants (SBIR).
- d) Developing an entrepreneurial network.
- e) Providing leadership/mentoring from successful entrepreneurs.
- f) Recruiting entrepreneurs to the Wichita MSA. Recognize and celebrate risk taking and successful entrepreneurs (i.e. Entrepreneur of the Year).
- g) Providing entrepreneurial education and training.
- h) Building strong small business associations to help with research.
- i) Enhancing and supporting agencies that assists with marketing and accounting issues.
- j) Providing technical assistance and incubators for entrepreneurs – a one-stop place to find available information on entrepreneurial assistance.
- k) Developing a website to share ideas and concepts that have potential for development and commercialization.

Please indicate your attendance by contacting Diane Longfellow at 268-1141 or via email at diane@wacc.org by April 12th. I hope your schedule permits your attendance at this critical first meeting. If you are unable to attend you may send a representative.