



**Visioneering Wichita
Entrepreneurs & Small Business Strategic Alliance
Agenda Meeting
February 21, 2006
Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Peggy Elliott, John Beehler, Marcia Stevens, Erik Pedersen, Steve Thomas, Rosalie Bradley, Treatha Brown-Foster, Jim Holt, Dan Hartman, Wayne Isaac, Monica Walker, Mamie Jordan, Ed Poindexter, Godwin Opara, Nancy Larson, Roger Douthett, John Stevens, Hoyt Hillman, Kelley Symons, Laurene Gast

Leadership Team: Elizabeth Auer, John Beehler, Jael Van Boening, Roger Douthett, Jim Graham, Margarita LaFarelle Hunt, Erik Pedersen and Steve Thomas

Next Entrepreneurs & Small Business Strategic Alliance Meeting: March 28, 9:00 a.m., Self-Help Network, 358 N. Main, Kansas Meeting Room

Minutes from the January 17, 2006 Entrepreneurs & Small Business Strategic Alliance meeting were accepted and approved.

I. Purposes of the Meeting

- Summarize accomplishments to date
- Check-in on progress made on Action Step Area #1: Supporting an Information Clearinghouse for Entrepreneurs
- Check-in on Action Step Area #2: Facilitating Education and Training Opportunities for Entrepreneurs
- Continue Discussion on Action Step Area #3: Facilitating Technical Assistance and Mentoring for Entrepreneurs
- Identify next steps for March meeting

II. Action Step Area Progress Check-In for Supporting an Information Clearinghouse

A report on the progress made for this action step area was provided by Erik Pedersen, Strategic Alliance Leadership Team Member and Operations Manager for the Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship (KCE). Erik provided members with an update on the launch of NetWork Kansas, slated for March 9th, and plans for nineteen upcoming community discussions to be held across the state in partnership with the nineteen Kansas community colleges. The purposes of these meetings are to discuss entrepreneurship in general and how it can be used as a source of economic development in rural communities in the state.

III. Action Step Area Check-in for Facilitating Education and Training Opportunities for Entrepreneurs

Steve Thomas, Strategic Alliance Leadership Team Member and Director for Educational Outreach for the WSU Center for Entrepreneurship provided an update on the recent efforts of the Center around education and training opportunities for entrepreneurs, which included the beginnings of: 1) conducting an inventory of education opportunities for entrepreneurs offered through all Kansas post-secondary colleges and universities; and 2) facilitating education opportunities for entrepreneurs through both rural and WSU education program development.

IV. Action Step Area Discussion for Facilitating Technical Assistance and Mentoring for Entrepreneurs

At the December 1, 2005 Strategic Alliance meeting, initial ideas were identified and discussed by Strategic Alliance members, which included both specific programs and effective approaches to providing mentoring and technical assistance. In addition, informational needs were identified related to mentoring programs and business incubators. In order to address these informational needs, presentations were made by several guest speakers at the January 17, 2005 Strategic Alliance meeting by representatives from SCORE (Service Corp. of Retired Executives) representative, the Quest Center, Wichita Technology Corporation, and the Downtown Excelerator.

Following the December and January Strategic Alliance meetings, at the February Strategic Alliance meeting, Strategic Alliance members and representatives from the minority business community continued to discuss possible ideas for providing mentoring and technical assistance to entrepreneurs around four identified theme areas, which included: 1) a business incubator; 2) mentoring approaches; 3) information and education distribution; and 4) other (which included benchmarking and measuring outcomes, assessment, and business plan development). Discussions also included how to involve a wide range of people in the region in developing these ideas further and any related information needs.

V. Next Steps

The next Entrepreneurs & Small Business Strategic Alliance meeting will be held on March 28, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at The Self-Help Network, 358 N. Main, in the Kansas Meeting Room. The next steps of the Strategic Alliance will continue the development of the technical assistance and mentoring for entrepreneur's action step area, which will include: 1) Hearing the findings of the Greenwood Consulting Group report on the feasibility of a local small business incubator; 2) Reviewing the collective ideas generated to address this action step area; and 3) Setting priorities on the ideas identified and explored through information gathering and next steps for addressing the prioritized ideas.