



VISIONEERING  
WICHITA

**Visioneering Wichita**  
***Racial Diversity, Opportunity & Harmony***  
**Strategic Alliance**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**October 4, 2007**  
**3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**  
**Self-Help Network**

**Attendees:** Ed Bricknell, Geri Watts, Deann Smith, Brian Black, Susan Leiker, Maria Bias, Lavonta Williams, Brenda Dietzman, Sue Castile

**Welcome/Purposes of Today**

- Discuss possible joint project with College Mecca Alliance
- Discuss possible activity/meeting at Exploration Place
- Supporting Walk 4 Unity – October 14th
- Update on the tool kit
- Update on new alliances and possible strategies for RDOH to connect, where appropriate.
- Discuss upcoming 2008 Survey

**Possible Joint Project with College Mecca Alliance**

College Mecca Alliance is interested in making efforts to impact the African American and Hispanic academic achievement gap, and exploring ways that they can do this as an Alliance initiative. They would like to partner with RDOH to explore ideas. Brian shared information from the Board of Regents that indicates that Kansas ranks #5 nationally for number of students who access higher education, but that minority representation in those numbers is low. In addition, Governor Sebelius has committed to focusing on K – 12 education, so there is interest and political will available to support broad efforts and partnerships to address the issue. Brian also shared that research indicates that minority students don't lack academic skills, but just often don't envision themselves in college. This is not necessarily a matter of race, but more likely a matter of access to information/knowledge.

It was suggested that possibly RDOH could help with “changing the culture” regarding how minorities view higher education and the ability to access it, including possibly educating parents and guardians about how to go about accessing resources for their children's education.

**Best Buy and the Race Exhibit**

Best Buy is seeking to partner with the RDOH Alliance to sponsor an event at Exploration Place for area youth to view and discuss the Race Exhibit. Best Buy is a major sponsor of the exhibit as it is hosted in venues across the country, and hope to use this opportunity in Wichita as a model for promoting the exhibit in other venues. Brian Black agreed to arrange a call with Best Buy's marketing group to discuss the possibilities in more detail.

**Support for Walk 4 Unity**

Sue Castile shared information regarding the Diversity Kansas Walk for Unity scheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup>, and invited and encouraged alliance members to participate.

## **Update on Toolkit**

Brenda shared that she continues to work on the toolkit and has done some research on the educational tools and computer usage, as well as community involvement and volunteerism. She hopes to bring a live demonstration to the next meeting. It was suggested that if we put the “toolkits” into neighborhood centers, that each toolkit site would be unique. It was also suggested that we try to partner with Cox regarding availability of computers in the community, advertising the toolkit. Another idea is to include a link in the toolkit that leads to United Way’s 211.

## **Jarik Conrad Visit**

Suzie shared that Jarik Conrad from Jacksonville Florida will be hosted in Wichita in late November, early December by the school district and the county. She is looking into the possibility of RDOH maybe partnering to sponsor a meeting or event around his visit.

## **Advance Kansas Inaugural Class**

Brian shared that the inaugural class of Advance Kansas will start in January 08, with a class of 40, which includes a diverse group of local civic, business, educational and government leaders and decision makers. The class is sponsored in part by the Kansas Health Foundation and the WSU Department of Student Life. Jeff Usher (KHF) and Ed O’Malley (Kansas Leadership Center) will be participants in the first class. Juan Williams, who facilitates Advance Kansas, usually comes in early, prior to the start of a class, and Brian suggested that he might be able to engage him in some other community activities around diversity.

## **Regional Summit for Leaders**

Our Economic Future  
October 19, Wichita Airport Hilton  
12:00 p.m. Registration  
1:00 p.m. Summit

## **2008 Survey**

Suzie shared the marketing timeline for the 2008 Racial Diversity survey. At the next meeting, the Alliance will spend some time reviewing demographic baselines and discussing ways to increase participation across demographics that were low in the original benchmark survey. In addition, two additional questions will be added to the survey they weren’t on the original survey. Those two questions will represent benchmarks for future surveys.

- People of different races have equal access to adequate healthcare in my community.
- Leadership opportunities in my community are open to people of different races

## **New Alliances**

Arts Alliance  
Certified Literate Community  
Cyber Tech Alliance

**Thank You – Next Leadership/Alliance Meeting – TBA**