



Visioneering Wichita Unified Legislative Agenda Strategic Alliance Summary of Accomplishments to Date May 2007

The Unified Legislative Alliance (ULA) benchmark is to ***“have a unified agenda that advances Visioneering Wichita.”*** To accomplish this benchmark, the ULA provides a process by which Wichita MSA groups, organizations, coalitions, and other Visioneering alliances can develop and submit proposals for the unified agenda.

The ULA initiated the 2006-2007 process in August. Since that time much has been accomplished, including:

- Revisiting and committing to a set of “guiding principles” that stress consensus building and a regional approach
- Created a timeline for the 2006-2007 process that is open to anyone interested and utilizes a set of criteria through which proposals that advance Visioneering Wichita are supported
- Agreed to focus the legislative agenda on “education” and “job growth”
- Revised a proposal template form that has been widely distributed so that groups, organizations, and individuals can develop their proposals for consideration
- Revised a “scoring matrix” that will be used to determine the extent to which proposals help in addressing: job growth, education, regionalism, additional benchmarks, regional economic impact, social impact, and how realistic it is for possible passage
- Provided an opportunity for input on proposals from the general public, ULA participants, and the Visioneering steering committee. Through this input several priorities were identified.
- Hosted a Visioneering Unified Legislative Alliance reception where 2007 priorities were announced.

Listed below is the Visioneering Unified Legislative Alliance Legislative Agenda and 2007 Priorities:

- *State financial support to maintain and expand low cost commercial air service from Mid-Continent Airport (maintain funding)*
- *Continued state investments in aviation research at the National Institute for Aviation Research at Wichita State University (continue funding support)*
- *State support for 25% expansion in the capacity of nursing programs in existing post-secondary public education institutions in South Central Kansas (maintain funding)*
- *Support for a new system and facility for technical education and training in the area through the Sedgwick County Technical Education and Training Authority (ongoing support)*
- *Support for the Kansas Small Business Development Center (KSBDC) (new item)*

The Kansas Legislators are currently considering the above items. A revised report will be completed after the end of the legislative session.

Strategic Alliance Strategy

Develop a South Central Kansas unified legislative agenda driven by community will and issues and promote its implementation by our legislative delegation. The unified agenda will represent what a broad cross section of South Central Kansas organizations support and expect of legislative action. (Issues that divide us will not be included in the unified agenda.)

- a) Present the unified agenda prior to the legislative session and issue a report card after the session.
- b) Have Wichita MSA and South Central Kansas Day in Topeka where representatives of all organizations visit with their legislators and provide support for the annual unified agenda.
- c) Ensure there is communication through the media and other communication mediums of Kansas legislative activities to the Wichita MSA citizens.
- d) Recognize the importance of working together and continuous communication with our legislative delegation.
- e) Encourage the South Central Kansas legislative delegation to form coalition within the state to achieve the unified agenda. (The South Central Kansas delegation has 44 of the 165 representatives in the Kansas legislature or 27%.)

Strategic Alliance Benchmark

The Unified Legislative Agenda Strategic Alliance will have a unified agenda that advances Visioneering Wichita.

Government Foundation Vision Supported

Before 2024, the Wichita MSA will be a national model for effective, efficient, inclusive and accountable governments that are representative of the community's needs and desires.

Key Benchmarks Targeted

Job Growth: By 2008, exceed the highest of the annual percentage job growth rate of the U.S., Omaha, Tulsa, Kansas City and Oklahoma City.

Skills Training & Life-long Education: Provide technical education to ensure a skilled workforce and competitive skills training for companies adding or relocating jobs. The measurement will be meeting Key Benchmarks for job growth and per capita income.

Post-secondary Education: Increase the number of post-secondary students 3% per year. Increase percentage of post-secondary education research dollars. The measurement of annual change will be determined during implementation.

Pre K-12 Education: All schools and districts meet the Kansas Adequate Yearly Progress Plan (AYP) each year.

“We decided it was time to plan together – as a region – for our future. We’ve implemented a process and we’re united with our area legislators to carry forward a regional legislative agenda that supports our south central Kansas vision. This foundation is built upon our collective vision, south central Kansas legislative issues and openness in our process.”

John Waltner, Unified Legislative Agenda Resource Team Co-Chair and Mayor, City of Hesston