

## Dream it. Plan it. Do it.

### It's no longer 500 Vision Partners

Community citizens attending the March 8 Steering Committee/Foundation Team meeting voted unanimously to intensify our 2005 Vision Partner goal to 700 VPs needed this year. "Increasing our community building capacity requires more Vision Partners. Every organization in our MSA has a stake in the future and should become a Vision Partner. Vioneering Wichita is a long-term plan but we need short term action which means coming together as we have never done before." reports Harvey Sorensen, chair of Vioneering Wichita. Check out a current Vision Partner list and/or form to become a Vision Partner at [www.vioneeringwichita.com](http://www.vioneeringwichita.com) .

### Vioneering Wichita is Making a Difference

Who could have imagined on June 1, 2004 that our Vioneering Wichita dreams could start to come to fruition? Let's review the progress:

1. Strategy: **Build a downtown arena.** Downtown arena legislation to be signed by Governor Sebelius in early April, 2005.
2. Strategy: **Encourage young people to get involved in leadership and be a force in Vioneering Wichita.** Young Professionals of Wichita is announced on March 21, 2005.
3. Strategy: **Provide a world class system and facility for adult basic education, technical education programs and customized training.** Sedgwick County Technical Education & Training Authority is launched and meeting on a regular basis.
4. Strategy: **Increase the competitiveness of the Wichita Airport in ticket cost and number of flights.** FairFares and public entities collaborate on competitive airfares.
5. Strategy: **Develop and support community leaders of all ages and races through accessible leadership development programs.** Kansas Health Foundation through the WSU Self Help Network is implementing leadership development and education throughout the MSA.

Kudos are in order for those organizations and individuals who are partnering in unprecedented ways in propelling our community's dreams forward.

### Our 100<sup>th</sup> Vision Partner

Vioneering Wichita now has 100 Vision Partners signed up. These businesses, arts groups, non-profits, government entities, education, associations and faith-based organizations have committed to working together to accomplish the community's 20-year strategic plan.

Three who have signed up and were featured in a news release include Mid American Credit Union, Fisch Haus Studios and Wichita Area Association of Realtors. They all cited their commitment to the community, the work they are already doing to make Wichita better, and their desire to work with others on behalf of the community as reasons for becoming Vision Partners. Visit [www.vioneeringwichita.com](http://www.vioneeringwichita.com) to sign up today as a Vision Partner. If you have questions about what it means to be a Vision Partner, check out the Q&A sheet attached to this e-mail newsletter.

## **Strategic Alliance Meetings Convene in April**

Visioneering Wichita is forming coalitions around six priority areas. These strategies and their implied actions filter throughout all foundations and have the potential to drive significant movement on our Key Benchmarks. Henry Luke will facilitate these discussions and everyone is encouraged to attend any meeting that sparks their interest.

### **Government – Unified Legislative Agenda**

**April 18 – 8:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.**

**St. James Episcopal Church, 3750 E. Douglas**

Develop and promote a South Central Kansas unified legislative agenda representing a broad cross section of issues supported by South Central Kansas organizations.

### **Education – College Mecca**

**April 18 – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**St. James Episcopal Church, 3750 E. Douglas**

Strengthen awareness of MSA colleges, programs and graduates within all area colleges and universities, as well as lifelong learning.

### **Education – K-12/Mentoring**

**April 19 – 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**St. James Episcopal Church, 3750 E. Douglas**

Increase parental involvement in all area schools and provide mentors to every child who needs one.

### **Quality of Life – Health Care**

**April 19 – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**St. James Episcopal Church, 3750 E. Douglas**

Increase access and quality of healthcare, while lowering the cost through healthy lifestyles, dental health, clinics, and technology, among others.

### **Quality of Life – Racial Diversity, Opportunity and Harmony**

**April 20 – 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**WSU Hughes Metro Center, 5015 E. 29<sup>th</sup> St. N.**

Ensure inclusion and racial diversity throughout the community, including economic impact, neighborhoods and education.

### **Economic Development – Entrepreneurs and Small Business**

**April 20 – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**WSU Hughes Metro Center, 5015 E. 29<sup>th</sup> St. N.**

Promote entrepreneurship and small businesses, including policy, programs, resources and education.

## **Visioneering Wichita is Everyone and should be Everywhere**

An important component of moving our vision forward is reaching out to our community citizens one on one. It is about each citizen or organization voluntarily taking action on a specific strategy within the Visioneering document.

Don't know about Visioneering Wichita? Visioneering Wichita volunteer speakers are eager and ready to go! If you would like a presentation to your business, your civic organization, your school board or even yourself, contact us and a speaker will be arranged. Call Diane Longfellow at 268-1141 or email [diane@wacc.org](mailto:diane@wacc.org).

[www.visioneeringwichita.com](http://www.visioneeringwichita.com)

Our website is still undergoing extensive revision. Top priorities are: We want to make the final document more accessible to our website visitors; we desire to make it easier for community citizens/organizations to sign up to be a Vision Partner and we wish to devise a simple process for Vision Partner report back of their success or progress. Check out our website at [www.visioneeringwichita.com](http://www.visioneeringwichita.com).

For more information or feedback contact Suzie Ahlstrand at 268-1135 or [suzie@wacc.org](mailto:suzie@wacc.org).

**Special Recognition to Visioneering Wichita Founding Partners**

City of Wichita   Wichita Downtown Development Corporation   Kansas Health Foundation  
Sedgwick County   Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce   Wichita Community Foundation

## **Visioneering Wichita**

### **Vision Partner Questions and Answers**

#### **What does it mean to be a Vision Partner?**

It means you believe in the future of our community and are willing to work to change it for the better. In most cases of active, involved organizations you are probably already working on at least one of the community's strategies as identified in the community plan. By signing on as a Vision Partner you acknowledge the role you already play and taking it to the next level.

#### **I'm already working on a strategy. Why do we need to come together with others to do this?**

We're doing a lot of great things in our community, but in order to achieve significant results we have to come together to share information and ideas. Every strategy is complex and requires multiple organizations and people focusing their efforts. Only by cooperating, collaborating and coordinating will we create a better community.

#### **Am I going to have to spend money?**

It depends. If you are already focusing on one of these areas, you probably have resources dedicated to it. If not, you may need to find staff time or money to address the issue. While there are no additional funds through Visioneering, working with others should generate community awareness.

**Am I going to have to report in a different way?**

No, you should be able to report in the same way with some details provided at the end of the year on the results of the efforts.

**Will I need to attend meetings?**

If one of your strategies is one of the six chosen for the first Strategic Alliances, yes there will be meetings. If you adopt a strategy that other organizations also adopt, you will probably need to coordinate your activities. However, each strategy will take a slightly different path depending on each Vision Partner's leadership and participation.

**As a business, which strategies should I adopt?**

If your business is already involved with a strategy, begin there. If your business is not already involved, review the strategies under the planning document at [www.visioneeringwichita.com](http://www.visioneeringwichita.com), give Suzie Ahlstrand a call for ideas or choose from specific actions, such as beginning a mentoring program.