



County of Jackson Strategic Planning Education Team

Date:	Time:	Next Meeting:
April 27, 2010	8:30 a.m.	The next meeting will be held May 27 at 3:30 p.m.

FOLLOW-UP OF PATTY KAUFMAN'S PRESENTATION

- Half of Michigan grads leave the state to find work, and often find themselves in communities that have high levels of skilled/trained people. These communities have more opportunities for finding a job with a higher income, better healthcare, etc.
 - Those leaving the state without a college degree may find themselves worse off, as Michigan has, for a long time, created good opportunities for non-college-educated people—opportunities which are no longer available.
 - The gap is widening between high school graduates, those with “some college” and college graduates with regards to hourly wage. Those who are less educated are the first to be let go when the economy isn’t well.
- Data is approximately 15% outdated, but will be current once new numbers are available in October.
- People were shocked and amazed to hear how lack of an education for their children and grandchildren impacts our community.

MATH SUMMIT UPDATE

- A child brain psychologist will be coming from the University of Cincinnati to talk about how students learn math, differences in how the brain thinks, and different learning styles.
 - Breakout groups will focus on an initiative to help Elementary students get their math skills up to grade level early on.
 - Another initiative will focus on the transition from high school to college level math, as well as how we are using math labs (My Math Lab, MathZone, etc). Several vendors will be present to show their latest technology.
- Hoping for 70 teachers to attend. Spring Arbor, JCC and Baker will be sending faculty, as well. Representatives from other groups, such as local tutoring groups, will be invited as well.
- Faculty have been pushing for an online database to connect area schools so that everybody can be on the same page with curriculum. They want to be able to work together in a more collaborative way.

MONEY AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- There was some discussion about what money will and will not be available from Federal and State sources.
- Discussion also ensued regarding student loans, pell grants, refund checks and financial aid scams.
- In years past, JCC has had a program that has offered 2 free years of college to at risk students. The program has only had a 9% rate of use, but has now seen that rate rise to 32%—but it’s still not enough.
 - In the future, recipients will be required to meet certain guidelines to keep their scholarship.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- People want to know why kids don’t know math and what we need to do to improve math rates.
 - Perhaps start talking to parents about the importance of a college education when their kids are in the early stages of their education (i.e.: Kindergarten, Head Start, etc.).
 - Start building from there, and then reinforce that message each year until they graduate high school.
- The only way to improve the quality of math is to improve the quality of teaching in the classroom—get kids engaged early on with fun math projects and the like.
 - We also need a cultural change. There is a culture of not honoring what higher education can do for you. The expectation has been that you can do just fine out of high school, but this just isn’t the case anymore. People have to invest in themselves, which can be difficult for some. Talking about the issue is the first step toward change.

Friday, May 28, 2010