

## County Strategic Planning November 2009

### Welcome Ryan Bliss to the Education Team.

#### Math Summit:

- Excited about the math summit and want to see how it went.
- Summit was successful and brought everyone together.
- Lots of “aha” moments between middle school, high school and college faculty.
  - Came out with a couple communication strategies and identified several points that they wanted to build on in order to create a more seamless transition.
  - Wanted to focus on “what is college ready”.
- Schools trying to identify and prioritize standards and concepts that are important, and to get consensus in education community.
- Many kids are left behind because there is no help at home. How are we going to help them?
  - Identified that many adults cannot help kids past 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> grade math.
  - Very detrimental for parents to say “It’s okay; I was bad at math, too.”
    - It is uncommon to hear people say that they can’t read, but it is very common to hear people say that they can’t do math. It has become socially acceptable.
- Education is at the core of economic development. We need to attract people to Jackson, and Michigan as a whole.
  - Having an educated population is crucial.
- The planning team will be meeting again in November to discuss bringing everybody back in January.

#### United Way:

- Had an opportunity to submit a planning grant.
  - Discussed coordinated efforts to connect parents with resources.
    - Where to ask for help
    - Understanding the relevance of math in everyday life.
    - Helping to make positive math a public campaign.
  - Want kids to graduate from high school with financial literacy skills.
  - Possibly do a math exhibit at the 2010 fair.
  - Conduct an inventory in order to see what resources are already available in our community.
  - Find out what the schools want from the community, since resources that are available to the non-profit human services agencies are limited.

#### Next Steps:

- When looking at the next steps, what else does the Team need in order to continue the math mantra idea?
  - Need an action plan.
  - Math workshops for kids.
    - Transportation is an issue as there is no money to run the extra bus route.
      - The County could possibly help promote some kind of transportation process.
  - Help parents to help their kids.
    - They don’t have to know math, just that it is important.
    - Understand how to make math an important part of life.

- If parents know where help is readily available, they will do whatever they can to make sure their kids get there.
- Gather benchmarks in order to determine where the County needs to be in regards to math.
  - How long will it take to change the community's perception of math?
  - There is a mismatch between the level of math we are teaching and the level that is required by the jobs of the future.
    - Less than 20% of Jackson residents have a post-secondary degree, and the average wage in Michigan is \$19.33.
    - Wages have not gone up because we don't have enough educated people.
    - Losing ground every year to the other industrialized nations. Also losing educated citizens to other states.
      - Michigan ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation for post-secondary degrees. We need to be in the top 5 or 10 in order to attract the good jobs.
- Attend the County Study Session and Economic Development Team meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. in the County Commission Chambers.

**The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 7, 2009 at 3:30 pm at the MSU Extension office located at 1715 Lansing Ave.**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Scott Bailey*