

**MINUTES OF
THE EDWARDS COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
MEETING**

NOVEMBER 9, 2009

President Deaver opened the meeting at 8:00 AM. Directors in attendance: Deaver, Jamison, Novinger, Painter, Pickard, Scott, Welling. Others present: Johnstone, Novinger, Williams.

ECA PROJECT STATUS

Land Use Compatibility: Nothing to report.

EDUCATION

Teacher/Counselor visits: Mr. Scott said he has prepared an “Industry Orientation of Educators Job Visits Project” check list and Evaluation forms to be used for Teacher/Counselor visits. These forms provide guidelines for industry in preparing them for the visit and for educators to evaluate the visit based on the goals of the visit.

Lancaster University Center: Mr. Johnstone briefed that the LUC Advisory Committee met to discuss a replacement for the Fresno Engineering program. Cal Poly San Luis Obispo has proposed a General Engineering degree program but employers in the Aerospace Valley can not hire general engineering graduates. They must have specific engineering degrees such as electrical or mechanical engineering. The Advisory Committee recommended exploring Long Beach State, Cal Poly Pomona, and/or Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. Long Beach State space program currently uses the high desert for student missile launches and works closely with the Rocket Propulsion Division at Edwards.

Focus on Your Future: Project Lead the Way recently conducted a webinar called Focus on Your Future. One of the issues discussed was the message that young ladies are getting about engineering and how it is “turning them off” is how difficult a profession it is and how one must love math. The webinar suggested focusing more on the creativity aspects, making a positive change, and how math is a tool to accomplish that.

FINANCIAL REPORT

James Welling presented a financial report reflecting a balance of \$15,223.99 after an expense of \$239.28 to Tehachapi School district for transportation.

OPEN DISCUSSION

EKERN Industry Visitors: President Deaver said our new strategy to have industry host our EKERN meeting was a success at our last meeting in Ridgecrest. This meeting was hosted by

Alpha One Credit Union with the Ridgecrest Hospital and a recruiting firm also in attendance. Once the industry representatives understood what we are trying to accomplish they were very supportive. The consensus was more industries in the Ridgecrest area would also be interested in hosting tours and possible internships.

JSF Welcome Video: Information has been received that organizations supporting the Joint Strike Fighter program are experiencing complaints from their personnel that they do not want to come to Edwards because of the sad state of education and taxes in California. As a result of this feedback, the Military Affairs Committee of the Antelope Valley Chambers of Commerce suggested a meeting to discuss preparing a video on the Aerospace Valley and what we are doing in education and the communities. The first meeting will be Monday 23, November at 12:00 in the AV Chamber Office on Lancaster Boulevard.

Summer Math-Science effort pairs instructors, business: A new master's degree internship program paired 20 local teachers with nine Tucson businesses, enabling the teachers to earn industry wages while they gained credit toward a degree. The internship, which was offered through a partnership between The Southern Arizona Leadership Council, the University of Arizona, Science Foundation Arizona and local business participants, lets teachers take techniques used in industry and transfer them to the classroom. The goal of the program, which places teachers in internships over three consecutive summers, is to increase teacher retention while trying to get high school-and middle school students excited about math and science. Over the summer, participants worked four days a week at their assigned business and took two courses that can be spread out over the course of the three-year program. In order to make sure that participating teachers want to remain in the classroom, companies must sign an agreement to not hire the teachers for at least five years after the program begins. Arizona Daily Star 10/10/09, by Ian Friedman.

Program helps teachers bring real-world experience into classroom: The Metro South/West Regional Employment Board in Framingham, MA organized a program that pairs teachers with high-tech companies. The goal is to train teachers in real-world problem-solving in engineering, science and other fields, and bring those experiences back to the classroom in the form of lessons for students. Math is something you experience...part of that is learning how math is used in life, finance and business. The program is sponsored by more than 35 corporate sponsors. It has funded more than 80 teacher postings according to the employment board. The program includes firms involved in engineering, finance, biotech and other fields. MetroWest Daily News 10/09/09 by John Hilliard

High School Girls Shadow Professors: Kansas State University is signing up high school girls to shadow professors for a day, and school officials said they hope seeing what professors do would encourage more high school girls to consider studying math, science, technology and engineering. <http://www.kfsm.com/sns-ap-ks--scienceshadows.0,2598371.story>

Nobel Prize Winner Spearheads Project to Entertain, Teach Students STEM: The MiamiHerald.com (9/26, Colavecchio) reported on the work of Harold Kroto, a Nobel Prize-winning chemist and Florida State University professor, to make science and math more interesting to younger students through a set of video lessons. Kroto has collected hundreds of videos “a free digital database (<http://geoset.fsu.edu/home.html>) that represents a sort of YouTube, Google, Wikipedia hybrid for science, math and technology instruction.” Kroto is creating a digital library that captures the work of young scientists at FSU.

NEXT MEETING

The next ECA meeting will be on December 14, 2009 at the Mojave Air and Space Port.

Sincerely,

Robert Johnstone, Technical Advisor

ATCH: Financial Report