

MINUTES OF
THE EDWARDS COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2008

President Deaver opened the meeting at 8:00 AM. Directors in attendance: Deaver, Johnson, Painter, Welling. Others present: Johnstone, Uhazy. Since a quorum of Directors was not in attendance this meeting was an exchange of information only.

ECA PROJECT STATUS

Land Use Compatibility: No new issues

Education:

Dialogue II Planning meeting-The Board of Trade Dialogue II Planning Committee will meet tomorrow, December 16th. A major discussion item will be the location of the Dialogue. The new Test Pilot School hangar at Mojave Airport is a major consideration. An alternate is the Hellenic Center in Lancaster but it probably cannot hold the anticipated attendance of 300 people.

Video games to teach math-A teacher at Palmdale High School briefed the Math, Science, Engineering, and Technology (MSET) consortium on the potential to use DimensionM, a math simulations program, to teach high school math. Research performed by various international organizations has given this method of teaching a very positive report card. The Antelope Valley High School District is looking at the possibility of offering this simulation program on a trial basis for a model program to see how the results compare with the traditional methods of teaching algebra. President Deaver mentioned an article in the Los Angeles Times (Dec 15, 2008) about college students referring to YouTube for math videos to explain math concepts they didn't understand in lectures. A YouTube tutorial on calculus integrals has been watched almost 50,000 times in the last year.

CSUB program closure-Johnstone reported that he has heard a rumor that the CSU main campus in Bakersfield is considering closing two of the most popular curriculums at the A V campus. The Psychology and Social Work programs would no longer be available locally if this proposal is implemented. He has asked Senator Runner to look into this issue.

HDUF update-Two programs similar to the High Desert University proposal are being implemented in other areas. Placer County in northern California has recognized the need to bring high-paying jobs to the region. County Supervisors unanimously approved plans that could lead to development of a Drexel University campus in west Placer County. The specific plan calls for a mixed-use planned community, including 3,232 homes, 1,155 more dwelling units on the university campus, 22 acres of property for commercial uses, and 220 acres of park, open space and public lands. 600 acres will be set aside for university land uses with 357 acres earmarked for the actual learning institution. Sixty acres would be used for faculty housing and 184 acres for open space. The university itself would be a private entity, with Philadelphia, Pa's Drexel University a strong candidate to accept the land. (Gus Thompson, Journal Staff Writer).

The second program is development of a future Texas A&M University-San Antonio campus. A 694-acre site has been proposed by the developer of the area surrounding the future Texas A&M-San Antonio campus. In addition to donating the land for the site, the developer has pledged a donation of \$1 million and assistance in raising an additional \$7 million for scholarships. The developer is proposing an "integrated urban village" on 2,700 acres. The new campus would be surrounded by that mixed-use development and serve as its anchor.

FINANCIAL REPORT

James Welling said the checking account balance as of December: \$9,881.05. See attached.

OPEN DISCUSSION

4-H Science Symposium-The Rosamond and Antelope Valley 4-H councils are hosting a 4-H Science Symposium on April 18th, 2009. This unique youth science project is targeted to 9 to 19 years of age. This year the symposium will be held at Rosamond Airport and is open to the public. The Edwards Community Alliance has been invited to participate with a speaker on educational opportunities for science and engineering in AV and Kern schools and to show the ECA video on the R-2508 airspace. Dr. Les Uhazy, Dean of Math and Science at Antelope Valley College volunteered to represent ECA at this event.

Brain drain under way (Susan Abram, Staff Writer Dailey News 12/07/08)-"Despite skyrocketing unemployment rates this year, California will face a potential shortage of college-educated workers over the next two decades, researchers say in a study released today. The high cost of housing is driving job-seekers away from California, causing the gap to widen between educated workers and employers, according to the Public Policy Institute of California. Researchers say 4 in 10 California workers will need a bachelor's degree to meet the state's projected economic demand by the year 2025. Current workers in their 50s have the highest level of education, but as they reach retirement, they will be replaced by less-educated employees.

“There has been a steady erosion of the state’s commitment to higher education over the last decade,” said Murray Haberman, executive director of the California Postsecondary Education Commission. He said 35 years ago, the state committed about 17 percent of its general fund to higher education, but today it offers only 10 percent.

While state university fees remain low compared to other states, it’s the other costs, such as room and board, books and transportation, that are highest in California.”

America’s Best and Worst-Educated Cities, Joshua Zumbrun, Forbes, 11/24/08—“Over the course of a lifetime, the average American with a college degree out-earns someone who stops at high school by several hundred thousand dollars. A look at America’s 10 best-and 10 worst-educated cities is a study in contrasts. The best-educated cities, as measured by the proportion of people older than 25 with bachelor’s, master’s, professional and doctoral degrees, according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, are a collection of university, research and corporate havens with buoyant economies and low unemployment. Those at the other end of the scale tend to be—yet aren’t always—just the opposite.

University jobs, research parks and tech companies pay solid salaries. The average income for the 10 best-educated cities is \$35,000. In the least-educated cities, by contrast, the average income is \$19,000. San Jose and San Francisco, among the wealthiest cities in the country, are also the fourth and fifth best-educated on this list. In Durham, N.C., in the 1950s, universities and the government invested heavily to build a large research park to attract better jobs to the region. Over decades, the investment paid off richly, with the Research Triangle Park employing some 40,000 workers, many of them well-educated and high-paid, according to the Durham Chamber of Commerce. In 2005, Merced became the home of the first American research university founded in the 21st century when the University of California opened a new campus in Merced. With investments like that, the central valley of California—today the site of several cities at the bottom, Merced, Visalia and Bakersfield—could start attracting jobs to get off the list of the least-educated. The most uneducated No. 7 is Bakersfield, California. (Analysis, News and Opinion from the Kern County Taxpayers Association).

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 AM.

The next meeting will be on January 12th at Mojave Airport. **The meeting is being held one week earlier than normal due to the Martin Luther King holiday on the 19th.**

Sincerely,

Robert Johnstone

Technical Advisor

Attachment: Financial Report

