Strategic Plan Executive Summary for The Federation for A Competitive Economy

Strategic Goals and Action Priorities

Act as a catalyst for establishing Inland Southern California as a center for post-secondary education and workforce development—emphasizing the strong linkage between education initiatives and economic development.

- Promote a strong pipeline of qualified workers-- especially in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics fields.
- Build capacity to gather and use data for tracking progress and making decisions.

Promote the value and importance of a seamless learning system that offers accessible, quality education for all students.

- Facilitate communication within the region as a means for sharing best practices, the development of working-partnerships, and policy briefings.
- Host regular topic driven meetings/roundtables, conferences and other pertinent events. Including hosting an annual premier summit that engages leaders on the issue of improving education and increasing resultant economic opportunities in the region.

Serve as an advocate for excellence in education and foster collaboration to advance student achievement across the entire learning system.

- Work with partners to identify and promote best practices for improving teacher preparation and professional development, decreasing the high-school drop out rate, increase college going/success rates and furthering career awareness.
- Develop funding sources to advance education initiatives and collaborations within the region.
- Establish legislative connections that will advocate for Inland Southern California’s needs with policy makers locally, in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.
- Build the stakeholder base specifically targeting regional business leaders that have an investment in improving regional educational outcomes.

Justification

- 66% of Riverside and 69% of San Bernardino K-12 students are from traditionally underrepresented minority populations in higher education.
- 67% in Riverside and 71% in San Bernardino receiving free or reduced lunch.
- 24% or 5,723 students dropped out of high school in Riverside County and 17.2% or 8,258 students dropped out of high school in San Bernardino County.
- 29% of the high school students graduating in Riverside and 20% in San Bernardino have completed the coursework requirements in order to be eligible for the University of California or the California State University System.
- College degree attainment rates are low with only 20% of adults in Riverside and 18% of adults in San Bernardino 25 years of older holding a Bachelor’s degree.

Regional Strengths

- Eighteen public and private higher education institutions.
- Local policy makers that are actively working to direct future growth.
- A commitment from the community to support progress in the region, exampled by the wide array of stakeholder coalitions.
- Astounding population growth that encompasses a diverse, vibrant population.
- An expanding healthcare industry, exampled by Loma Linda University and Medical Center and the development of the University of California Riverside Medical School.
FACE is a network of professionals serving as a communication/advocacy coalition and catalyst for building communities of high expectation. The goal of FACE is to facilitate improvement in conditions for student learning in Inland Southern California schools, thus preparing a workforce and a citizenry with the education and skills necessary in order to be competitive in the 21st century global economy.

The mission of FACE is to serve as a bi-county stakeholder coalition in Inland Southern California for connecting the resources of higher education institutions, K-12 education, government, media, healthcare institutions, labor, business, faith-based and community-based organizations to establish an effective P-20 continuum for students in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties to succeed academically, thus preparing them for the world of work, higher education and engaged citizenship.

Bringing together the disconnected segments of the formal and informal education pipeline, the purpose of FACE is to institute systemic reform utilizing innovative and proven practice, in order to open access and provide multiple comprehensive pathways for young people to be successful from birth to careers.

Outcomes from these efforts will create an intellectual climate that promotes and improves education opportunities for all students, significantly benefiting the economy whose prosperity depends on a well-trained workforce at a time when society’s jobs are demanding even greater education and skills.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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