



EDUCATION

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EDUCATION

Mini-Vision:

Within our life-long learning community, all people are provided the opportunities to possess the skills, knowledge, and ability to achieve their potential in an ever- changing world.

Goal 1:

Promote a lifelong learning community.

Rationale:

Even in the year 2020, it will still take a “village to raise a child.” As a result of the continual need to raise the academic achievement of all learners to compete in a global economy, powerful coalitions of community members will be necessary to efficiently and effectively use limited resources. In addition, the educational achievement of all learners will be closely aligned to the strength and well being of the family unit.

Strategy 1:

Create partnerships to create the lifelong learning environment.

Action Steps:

1. Create “Greater Mankato Area Education Council” in order to raise academic achievement of all learners.

Responsible Parties: P-16 education leaders – including existing Cities/Colleges/University Council, plus business, community, governmental and youth representatives.

Timeline: First 6 months: Populate the council through nomination/selection process. Second 6 months: establish governance structure and set initial agenda, ongoing meetings thereafter.

Resource Needs/Options: Small budget for printing, mailing, marketing, and funding options: In-kind contributions from participant organizations.

2. Establish “Healthy Family Collaboration” in order to promote the well being of a diverse range of family units.

Responsible Parties: P-16 education leaders, plus government leaders, parent and youth volunteers, Mankato Area Healthy Youth (MAHY), area “family” organizations such as United Way, YMCA/YWCA, Summit Center, ISJ Mayo, Mankato Clinic, Community Assistance for Refugees (CARS), Community Against Domestic Abuse, (CADA). (Future: Community Center and multi-agency early childhood education center).

Timeline: First 6 months: Organizational strategies populate the collaboration, set charter. Second 6 months: Establish partnerships, hire staff person, and begin to establish programming.

Resource Needs /Options: Staff and space; Revenue stream to support ongoing programming;
Funding options: Bonding / operating referenda (property tax, or tap into additional sales tax);
Foundation solicitations and grant writing, contributions from participating organizations, revenue from programming fees.

Measures of Success:

Greater academic achievement for an increasingly diverse population; graduate retention in area workforce; higher graduation rates and greater readiness of high school graduates for post-secondary education; greater % of children ready to learn upon entering kindergarten; strong family health, as measured by education / economic indicators, as well as mental and physical vitality of a community of lifelong learners. Because education professionals largely populate both groups, we are confident that appropriate assessment measurements will be developed to gauge success.

Goal 2:

Assess our current capacity to build global awareness into education.

Rationale:

Once far away parts of the world are now related to our own community in multiple ways. Accordingly, we need to have an understanding of how we are interdependent with others in the world—culturally, economically, and ecologically. By being able to understand and communicate with others, we will be better able to respect other people around the world and in our own community and to cope with increasingly global problems.

Strategy 1:

Conduct a needs assessment to gauge current capacity.

Action Steps:

1. Formulate a Needs Assessment Survey.

Responsible Parties: A sub-committee formed by the Implementation Committee or possibly an MSU class willing to take on the survey as a semester project

Timeline: 6-7 months

Resource Needs/Options: Primarily voluntary contributions and time

2. Distribute survey to educational entities, social organizations, service organizations, business entities, and activity groups. Then analyze results.

Responsible Parties: Those involved in Step 1 plus all the recipients of the survey

Timeline: 6-7 months

Resource Needs/Options: Primarily voluntary contributions and time

3. Form a Global Citizenship Sub council under a Greater Mankato Area Education Council.

Responsible Parties: Interested community leaders and individuals

Timeline: 1-2 months

Resource Needs/Options: Primarily voluntary contributions and time

4. Recommend and implement programs based upon analysis of the Needs Assessment Survey.

Responsible Parties: Global Citizenship Sub Council

Timeline: 14 months and ongoing if the project retains value and interest

Resource Needs/Options: To be determined

Measures of Success:

Completing action steps; raising the level of global citizenship in our community.

Goal 3:

Retain and attract an educated work force.

Rationale:

In order to retain and attract future leaders, entrepreneurs, and citizens, we need to help our young people to invest in our community through leadership and problem-solving training, thus ensuring the community will flourish in a complex world.

Strategy 1:

Develop seamless leadership and problem-solving skills from grade school through college.

1. Establish an on-going task force that will examine current programs, define outcomes, articulate program content, and study youth involvement.

Responsible Parties: Ownership for starting the task force will be delegated to the Cities/Colleges/University Advisory Group (in existence)

Timeline: First six months—Identify collaborative partners

Resource Needs/Options: No need for special resources at this time.

2. Monitor and cultivate financial support for youth through internships, service learning, grants, and loans to keep young citizens in our community.

Responsible Parties: Cities/Colleges/University Advisory Group; local government, Public, private educational institutions, K-16; the business community; Non-profit and youth organizations; Directors, coordinators of existing youth leadership programs; Community Services/United Way

Timeline: Quarterly or bi-annual meetings to examine and chart current programming—completion within two years

Resource Needs/Options: If needed, develop partnerships with business.

3. Assess public relations needs to ensure that youth learn of the opportunities available in the Mankato area.

Responsible Parties: Cities/Colleges/University Advisory Group; local government, public, private educational institutions, K-16; the business community; non-profit and youth organizations; directors, coordinators of existing youth leadership programs; Community Services/United Way

Timeline: On-going; fit organizations into a seamless leadership/ problem-solving curriculum to enhance youth opportunities and encourage youth to stay in the Greater Mankato area.

Resource Needs/Options: Undetermined at this time.

Goal 4:

Make learning more accessible for all residents in the region.

Rationale:

Our area has a growing diverse population who lack the skills to be effective learners.

Strategy 1:

Focus on needs and goals of at-risk students to increase their participation and success in educational programs.

Action Steps:

1. Raise by X % our area's youth and adult participation in P-16 educational offerings by meeting the needs of students with diverse backgrounds and educational goals.

Responsible Parties: P-12 public and private schools; post-secondary institutions; business community; non-profit organizations; Education Council; parents/students

Timeline: From 2007 until 2020

Resource Needs/Options: Operating referendum, state aid allocations, in-kind institutional

2. Work collaboratively to prepare all students to graduate from high school, ready for college.

Responsible Parties: P-12 public and private schools; post-secondary institutions; business community; non-profit organizations; Education Council; parents/students

Timeline: From 2007 until 2020

Resource Needs/Options: Business contributions, P-16 institution contributions

Strategy 2:

Provide more diverse staff to meet the needs of students with diverse backgrounds and educational goals.

1. Increase diverse staffing to improve the educational climate for diversity and multiculturalism.

Responsible Parties: Hiring agencies, ensure posting practices include places that provide broader diversity

Timeline: Ongoing; begin as soon as possible

Resource Needs/Options: Education council provides recommended posting locations