Columbia, Missouri Intercity Leadership Visit, November 8-11, 2015  
Wrap Up Session- Table Discussions & Feedback from Delegates

What are the top 3 ideas or takeaways you have experienced while on the trip?

All Feedback:

- Start-ups and activity
- Business incubator/ entrepreneurship w/ college
- Start-ups and activity to support
- Entrepreneurial emphasis and create culture
- Innovation Center
- Pipeline of Entrepreneurs, Redundancies in different parts of the community.
- Community needs to enhance innovators, arts, business, schools
- Nurturing incubator > New Business
- Technology Incubator
- Angel Investment Group
- Start-ups
- Attract new business- incentives
Entrepreneurship – enhance pipeline development—MSU applied research—PreK-12
Innovation/ research center- more collaboration and partnership
How students contribute/ add tapestry to Mankato
Intellectual property- rather than coming up with idea, Mankato develops the idea.
Untapped potential for E.D.
Talent retention – pitch competition, one million cups-mentoring program
Very impressed with innovation center
Very impressed with the angel investment
Culture of our community identity-persona
Creating culture of the community- sell it to retain and attract
Culture/ persona of our community is important
Emphasize quality of life and market
Greater Mankato is doing well
Interesting jobs will keep people = culture
Livability
Do what we do well better/ play with our strengths
Manufacturing
Ag
Interns and connectivity with kids
Social Equity
More collaboration between business, our locals, higher education, and government agencies.
Attracting talent and retaining them is key for our furthering developing a culture of vital parts and entertainment, focusing one place making-to drive growth & innovation
Vacancy rate downtown is 2% with no larger chains
Jobs at all levels
Money goes where it is treated well
First Fridays- celebrating creative economy
  Commitment to supporting arts community-intentional
  1% for the arts
  Quality of life- livability
Social equity- livable wage.
Social equity
Airport critical for growth- cargo
Airport and the need to leverage its advantages.
Leverage our airport
Airport expansion/ cargo
Airport expansion
Facilities need a multi-prong finance strategy engaging many partners
Appreciation stable community leadership
• Take care of capital- treat it well
• Partnerships
• Public-Private
• Public- Non-profit
• Public- Public
• Social Equity > Economic Development
• Social equity = economic development
• Arts/ Culture/ Rec = how to build
• Arts economy university/ city/ non-profit/ private
• Define strengths MSU brings to business and community
• Collaboration: college, city, businesses
• Great-old-downtown with gathering places, benches, rooftops, etc.
• Combined private, public, and nonprofits- be able to have leadership all together, making a priority
• Great job of collaboration of segments
• Connection, we could do more
• University as economic development leader
• Strong city- university connections
• University
• How can we better village the students
• Retain the talent and incorporate into the greater community more
• Empower university
• University town- better tapped into trends, next generation
• Research next stage
• Changing and creating culture of YES.
• Need: Time & Discipline
• Talent retention
• MIT = Living Wage Measure
• Measure everything/ living wage
• Mankato bragging = we have a low wage rate
• Helping people get out of poverty is a great opportunity for economic development
• We keep talking about these issues- are we finally going to do something
• Need further conversations
What are the top 3 corresponding recommendations or opportunities for Greater Mankato?

All Feedback:

- Incubator/ Collaboration between education and private sector
- Focus on business incubator with university – Business start-ups, talent retention, and strengthen relationship
- Start-Ups- Ag Business Development Park, Angel Networks. Eco-System for GMG
- Starts
  - Reinvigorate our angel network
  - Develop our eco-system to navigate our region
- Build entrepreneur assets / strengthen ties
- Startup environment for students to help keep them in the community
  - Better support
  - “Big Ideas” Challenge
  - “MN Cup”
  - Research
- Incubator at smaller scale- FPX. w/ MSU
  - Assets of community already being done, especially with Ag
  - Need ownership of incubators/ entrepreneurs
- Innovation/ Support of it (Incubator, Angels)
- Enhance pipeline development
- REDI Corp Innovation Center, Entrepreneurship, Provost of Economic Development
- Pitch competition- entrepreneurship
• One million cups-mentoring
• Develop Angel Investors
• Culture of Community – Deconstruct the metrics, what is it like to experience Mankato?
  Blue Earth County Fair.
• Covers a wide territory, retention, economic development, generation transfer.
• Deliberate collaboration meetings- regular among strategic stakeholders, Business higher ED and local government agencies
• Branding region to attract and keep
• Promote economic vitality, ex the university bought the theater
• Play on strength of economic diversity
  o MSU
  o Health
  o Technology
• Culture/ Identity of Community
  o Deconstruct the metrics what is it like to experience Mankato
• Improvement of district funding in order to develop the place making concept to
  Mankato attracting and retaining talent & the culture of YES.
• We need to tell our story better of what we are doing and coordinate all we do and
  summarize collaborator presence
• 1% for the arts
• Cultural Arts strategic plan
• Downtown Arts
• Art space
  o Artists living and working downtown
  o Create the culture
  o Support them
  o Art on parking ramps > dress them up
• Rooftops
• Crafts
• Cross cultural exposure
  o Welding and artistic groups
  o Produce products to be proud of traffic boxes
• Develop a leadership round table for Mankato business leaders, CEO’s, etc. to share
  ideas and get things done. This roundtable could bring new ideas, raise issues, and help
  Mankato be a better community, develop service culture, retain young talent, and align
  our vision.
• Different entities working together
• Convene all elected officials in MSA to build relationships
• More commitment to diversity council with social equity and outreach
• Talent Retention
• Summer internships with teachers for business in need during peak times
• Develop and discuss a way to keep more students in Greater Mankato Companies after graduation
• Develop a way to have Mankato companies share their narrative- internship, mentoring, etc.
• Need to continue investing all duties of life with assets scan of what we need/ have
• As Ag underpins our economy, we need to develop a strategic plan
• Government Economic Development Financial Asst. should be tied to livable wages.
• Public education, sports centers, study how to bring about living wage
• Analyze our local living wage & be deliberate in creating opportunity!
• Conversation about rebuilding / supporting middle class job.
• Airports- increased focus on cargo, getting people to other hubs
• Study cargo for cargo- fed ex. Ups
• More public/ private partnership. Ex: airport
• Airports
  o Focus on cargo
  o Increased ability to get people to hubs
  o Ag-Business development park
• Transportation