

- 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
 - MSU
 - Health
 - Technology
- Culture/ Identity of Community
 - 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
 - Artists living and working downtown
 - Create the culture
 - Support them
 - Art on parking ramps> dress them up
- Rooftops
- Crafts
- Cross cultural exposure
 - Welding and artistic groups
 - 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
 - Focus on cargo
 - Increased ability to get people to hubs
 - Ag-Business development park
- Transportation