

Rockford Area Economic Development Council

EDUCATION COMMITTEE 2010 WORK PLAN

The Rockford Area Economic Development Council (RAEDC) Board of Directors created solutions teams/committees to help achieve the organization's mission and goals. Committee contributions are extremely helpful, as members advise from their unique perspectives, broaden considerations, and lead implementation of *Rockforward!* strategies and tactics.

Meetings of the Education Committee are held on the second Wednesday of each month (*except July and December*) at 7:30 AM at the RAEDC offices (100 Park Ave, Rockford, IL). The chairman is Bill Dilts, Vice President-Campus Development and Government Relations, Rockford Health System. The staff liaison is Janyce Fadden, RAEDC President.

Increasing educational attainment directly impacts the economic development outcomes of the region. As companies hire a greater percentage of post secondary educated employees it is important that the region produces these graduates to assure a local supply to the companies. The committee determined that in 2010 their focus would be on Kindergarten through Twelfth (K-12) grade at Rockford Public Schools (RPS 205) to increase student aspiration to attain post secondary education. The committee is also seeking to work with other local school districts that can benefit from this work.

In 2010, the Education Committee will collaborate with RAEDC staff, investors, and allies to accomplish the following actions:

CONNECT ROCKFORD AREA BUSINESSES WITH STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS

Tactics: Education Committee will work with the K-12 system to support programs as they relate to connecting students with industry and educational opportunities. Initial tactics include working with Academic Career Education (ACE) High School to continue supporting the internship program and with Kishwaukee Intermediate Delivery System (KIDS) to continue facilitating company tours with educators and promoting seminars.

Projected Outcomes: Businesses will have access to a new worker pipeline, educators will have access to companies that will offer internships, and students will have access to local job opportunities.

INCREASE INVOLVEMENT AND EXPECTATION IN OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

Tactics: Education Committee will work with area educators and local businesses to communicate opportunities for mutual engagement and promote successes. Tactics include communicating RPS 205 strategic planning forums to attract business participation and facilitating dialogue between investors and RPS 205.

Projected Outcomes: Businesses and educators will have increased interaction, and community expectation for educational achievement will be elevated.