

# **Imagine Tallahassee Steering Committee Special Meeting Summary Minutes October 17, 2013 – Red Eye Coffee (1122 Thomasville Rd)**

**Members Present:** Ms. Barbara Wills and Ms. Christic Henry.

**Meeting Began at 9:15 a.m.**

## **Agenda Item #1: Review Master Key and Assignment for Initial Project Impact Assessment**

Ms. Barbara Wills and Ms. Christic Henry reviewed the materials distributed by the Thinkspot consulting team on October 2, 2013. Ms. Wills and Ms. Henry also discussed the Steering Committee held on October 14, 2013.

## **Agenda Item #2: Initial Project Impact Assessment – K-12 Education and Economic Development**

Ms. Barbara Wills and Ms. Christic Henry discussed ideas on how to engage students in regards to the *Strategic Direction: Investing in Our Human Capital Assets*. Ms. Wills and Ms. Henry discussed opportunities for collaborative partnerships in the community for internships, camps, field trips, and other learning opportunities. Ms. Wills and Ms. Henry also agreed that the Goals for *Strategic Direction: Investing in Our Human Capital Assets* should be revised to expand its scope. Ms. Wills and Ms. Henry's discussion culminated into a project proposal entitled 'K-12 Economic Engagement Initiative', which is attached (Attachment #1).

**Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.**

## **Attachments**

1. K-12 Economic Engagement Initiative Project Impact Assessment

## **K-12 Economic Engagement Initiative**

Project Description: Place K-12 students into active participation in community based programs, apprenticeships, and service learning opportunities with businesses, not for profits and government organizations. This project would create relationships among Leon County Schools, the Tallahassee Chamber and businesses and organizations. This would be presented as a revision to Tactic #2, and would complement the overall goal to develop an educated and employable workforce. It is the foundation necessary to achieve success in all of the goals associated with *E. Investing in Our Human Capital Assets*.

This would require strong coordination among many elements in our community and a long-term focus and commitment in order to be successful and have lasting impact. But, the impacts are far-reaching. This project has a high return on investment. A formal partnership focused on **K-12 Economic Engagement** would be created among TCC, LCS, the Tallahassee Chamber, the United Partnership for Human Services, CONA, the City, Leon County, and United Way to coordinate this effort. These groups would coordinate the placement of students in field trips, entrepreneurial activities, summer camps, and long-term internships and apprenticeships focused on providing service learning opportunities, work skills for our local economy, a post-secondary focus, and community awareness. Opportunities need to begin for middle school students from low-income families, and then expand from there. This project could be infused throughout many other projects and goals established by Imagine Tallahassee.

The results would be many, including:

1. Teach students to be competitive in this economic environment as well as future changing environments.
2. Engage and invest students in our community now and in the future. It will build long-term commitments to the Tallahassee community, as well as demonstrating the potential of Tallahassee for employment and future living.
4. Create a business and public sector investment in our schools.
5. Provide workforce development for secondary students. It will groom a workforce for our community.
6. Provide the intangible benefit of opening a student's eyes to multiple career opportunities.
7. With long-term planning this could be continued at the postsecondary level as well with local colleges and universities. Articulation from local high schools to a local college or university could be streamlined.
9. Provides a low-cost and educable workforce to local businesses and organizations.

10. Give businesses the opportunity to create and participate in programs at the K-12 level.
11. Students earn service learning experience and credit.
12. Encourage responsible citizenship.

**Proposed revisions:**

E. Investing in Our Human Capital Assets

Goals:

1. Increased job opportunities for high school graduates, college students and new graduates.
2. Increased share of population with post-secondary education or training (including degrees and certifications).
3. Number of individuals aged 25-34 with a college degree or higher.
4. Growth in the number of high-wage jobs filled that require at least a college degree or specialized training.