



EDUCATION COUNCIL – 2007 “A Business/School Partnership”

MISSION: To develop the best school system in the United States.

Goals/Objectives:

Priority #1 –

TO DEVELOP ACADEMY CENTERS ON THE ANGELINA COLLEGE CAMPUS

Chairman: Trey Henderson, ANGELINA HARDWOOD SALES

- ✓ Research the feasibility of funding and creating “academy centers” on the Angelina College campus in partnership with the county’s six ISD’s allowing vocational and technical program resources to be pooled allowing the development of better educational opportunities. Locals ISD’s would bus students to these “academies”. Such “academies” would allow students to graduate from high school with the possibility of both dual credit and certifications in certain areas.
- ✓ Look at similar programs in Spring, Coppell and Conroe.
- ✓ Secure mentoring could be done for “academy” groups.

Priority #2 –

CREATE A QUALITY, WELL STAFFED MENTORING PROGRAM FOR THE COUNTY.

Chairman: Dr. Charles Kent, DDS

- ✓ Develop and assist in coordinating a strong mentoring program for all six independent school districts in Angelina County.
- ✓ Create a “job description” for mentors for each district – since each district has different needs and requirements from mentors.
- ✓ Look at need for both “internal” and “external” mentors.
- ✓ Develop an “interest inventory” on each student to be able to pair them with a similar career mentor.
- ✓ Develop a method of utilizing retirees as mentors – provide an easy method for retirees, or any interested citizen, to sign on as a mentor. As one part of this, assure that there is a link on the Chamber’s web site that will connect to mentoring opportunities at each of the six ISD’s.

Priority #3 –

DEVELOP JOB SHADOWING/INTERNSHIPS COUNTY-WIDE.

Chairman: Ronnie Robinson, DUNAGAN WAREHOUSE

- ✓ Research and develop a summer internship/job shadowing opportunity for students during the summer.
- ✓ Coordinate with Workforce Solutions summer work program for disadvantaged youth.
- ✓ Research possibility of developing a 3 week internship program, as part of the curricula, during the student’s junior or senior year in conjunction with the local business community.
- ✓ Look at the creation of a Certificate of Employability that could be awarded students who complete certain requirements that might include an internship experience.
- ✓ Research the development of a 8 week summer “internship” throughout the business community, where business would support the “hiring” of an intern 20 hours a week at \$7/hour – cost of \$1120, coordinating with the Workforce Solutions program or other possible.

Priority #4 –

CREATE NEW ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES.

Chairman:

- ✓ Consider an awards dinner for honor students that might include scholarships from the business community, i.e. Lockheed-Martin sponsoring the pre-engineering award.
- ✓ Improve the promotion of the Chamber's Science & Technology Fair and work to match students with business mentors in the student's area of interest.
- ✓ Develop methods of recognizing the students "in the middle", assuring they also get exposure to influential speakers, etc.
- ✓ Recognize "Texas Scholars", who will graduate on the Texas Scholars recommended plan, with an appropriate certificate and recognition event (hamburger cookout). Develop a method of assuring these students a priority in applying for available internships.

Priority #5 –

CREATE A LOCAL MULTI-INSTITUTIONAL TEACHING CENTER (MITC)

Chairman: Dr. Larry Phillips, ANGELINA COLLEGE

- ✓ Research feasibility and cost-effectiveness of creating a MITC on the Angelina College campus with 10-15 classrooms at a cost of around \$4 million that would provide distance learning capabilities with major universities – allowing area students to take senior level college courses right here at home.
- ✓ Survey area students/community to discover interest and possible usage of such a facility.

Priority #6 -

EVENTS/PROGRAMS ONGOING AS THE FIVE TOP PRIORITIES MOVE FORWARD

WORK ON TEACHER RECOGNITION, TEACHER INCENTIVES AND COORDINATION WITH BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

Chairman: Leon Manning, AXLEY & RODE

CREATE TEACHER RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

- ✓ Look at revamping the current "teachers of the year" program to better recognize the teaching profession. Look at the Longview program that has an annual recognition banquet, with students nominating teachers and using the event as a fund raiser for teacher mini-grants.

DEVELOP A METHOD TO FUND TEACHER MINI-GRANTS

- ✓ Work on the possibility of developing a way of funding teacher mini-grants to fund continuing education during the summer.

CREATE A INCENTIVE PACKAGE FOR NEW TEACHERS

- ✓ Work on developing a package of incentives to help county ISD's attract new teachers – such as getting utility connections waved, low interest loans, merchant discounts, etc.

DEVELOP A COUNTY-WIDE PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY PROGRAM

- ✓ Develop a "Principal for a Day" program getting local business leaders to job shadow school principals for a day – to better educate business community on duties and responsibilities of our educators.