

PATHWAY TO PROSPERITY – Building a community of hope, innovation, competitiveness, and prosperity

There is a growing segment of our community that is lagging behind in educational attainment, employment and income. The disparities that exist in our community along racial/ethnic lines are widening. They are becoming further removed from access, opportunity and prosperity. “They” are those living at or below 200% of poverty and are disproportionately minority.

So many of our community’s problems – housing and homelessness, mental health, crime, health, etc. can be tied to low income which can be tied to employment and ultimately to education/skill level. The costs associated with these human services issues are staggering and growing. They represent a significant economic burden to everyone.

If, as a region, we are to be competitive in the global marketplace, and we want to sustain our economic growth and add new jobs, we cannot rely on population growth alone. We must “grow our own” talent. Our ability to attract new businesses and grow existing ones, and remain a top spot to do business depends heavily on our ability to provide a well-educated and skill workforce. Failure to do so will have severe economic and social costs.

Pathway to Prosperity is an initiative of the Workforce Solutions Capital Area Workforce Board in cooperation with the Community Action Network (CAN). It is a collaborative effort, focused on developing the human talent needed for a 21st century workforce so that the region (its businesses, citizens, and communities) are competitive in the global market. This will be accomplished by:

- Developing a unified community vision for workforce development
- Building alliances across education, economic development, workforce development, business, government, and human services
- Connecting and aligning community efforts and resources

- Developing innovative solutions
- Building collaborative systems and establishing common outcome measures

Goals:

- Increase access to workforce education and training
- Reduce disparities in educational attainment, employment and income
- Increase the education and skill levels of individuals so that they are competitive in the labor market and that businesses are competitive in the global marketplace

Deliverables:

- Vision statement for workforce development
- A Community Compact for workforce development
- A set of economic/workforce indicators
- Strategies to address needs and an implementation plan
- Reporting framework

Convening:

The Workforce Solutions Capital Area Workforce Board will serve as the convener and facilitator for the Pathway to Prosperity initiative.