

August 15, 2005

**Message From the Chair Emeritus—Dick Johanson**

One of my great monthly privileges is attending the Board of Director's meeting of our Business Council. Last week was no exception. From Juan Arambula's inspiring presentation on his first year as our Assemblyman to Kurt Madden and Deborah Nankivell's superb report on defining and investing in a Community Agenda, we learned that only by coming together in a triumvirate of private, public and benevolent sectors can we attain the balance needed to become a healthy community. Focusing on one aspect alone is akin to riding a pogo stick. President Madison put it this way:

**OUR THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

*"The Great Definer Is Not What We Have Learned, But What We Have Become"*

**Fresno Pacific University Brings In Another Extraordinary Speaker—Patrick Lencioni**

An invaluable community service is providing an opportunity to learn from cutting edge thinkers. Both Fresno Pacific and the Lyles Center at Fresno State have offered up exceptional speakers over the past few years that have resulted in new projects, the motivation to drive thoughtful change and more effective strategies. This year Fresno Pacific is bringing Patrick Lencioni, a leader of the new generation of business thinkers, to the Fresno Convention Center on Wednesday, September, 28 at 7:30 a.m. The purpose of Fresno Pacific's business forum is "to bring to Fresno the best business minds to encourage success and strong values in business and other organizations." Lencioni believes organizations succeed because they are healthy and smart and that healthy organizations have less politics and confusion and higher productivity, commitment and morale. To register call 559.453.2110 or go online at [www.fresno.edu](http://www.fresno.edu). According to Lencioni, the ultimate competitive advantage is collaborative teamwork. Thanks, Fresno Pacific.

**Inspiration & Renewal: Cornerstones for the Long Haul**

As the numbers of those participating in community-wide collaborations like the Regional Jobs Initiative and implementing the Choosing Our Future report at Fresno Unified are growing and the scope expanding, it can be helpful to return to the original impulse, those early thoughts that sparked the imagination of enough people to start and sustain these challenging efforts. A book, written by the leaders of Collaborative Economics—Doug Henton, John Melville and Kim Walesh—does an outstanding job of capturing the stories of a phenomenon going on across the United States. The book, *Civic Revolutionaries: Igniting the Passion for Change in America's Communities*, provides examples, key thoughts and a sense of historic mission to the work of building prosperous and high quality communities able to compete effectively in the global economy. While the context, tools and challenges keep changing, the beginning—"We the People" and the endgame "liberty and justice for all" has remained the same. As John Gardner said, "The American Experiment is still in the laboratory. And there could be no nobler task for our generation than to move that great effort along." The book was written as a call to action and if you read it, you will find that you must respond.

**The Best of Business Thinking in the Nation's Interest—Committee for Economic Development**

The Committee for Economic Development (CED) has addressed national priorities to promote sustained economic growth to benefit all Americans since the 1940's. The scope of the organization's work includes education, globalization and trade, democratic institutions, and the economy & federal budget. They also have projects on corporate governance, health care reform, higher education, early education, the global financial imbalance and global poverty. Trustees include CEO's and presidents from Toyota, Citigroup, General Electric, The Boeing, Deloitte & Touche and Goldman Sach's. CED, with the support of the Gates Foundation, is conducting a series of forums across the country to discuss their recent report, "Investing in Learning: School Funding Policies to Foster High Performance." The key recommendations are to: allocate resources more effectively within districts and schools, align teacher compensation with labor market realities, create incentives for improved performance and link school funding to the costs of meeting education standards. The report, along with in depth reports on other topics, is on their website at [www.ced.org](http://www.ced.org) CED is planning a forum in Fresno in October in partnership with the Business Council and the Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute at Fresno State.