

**Monday, July 3**

**More Successes at the Center for Advanced Research & Technology (CART)**

As part of the FBC's commitment to building bridges between education and the world of work, members have served on CART's board of directors since the inception of this national model. Currently, Cathy Frost (BennetFrost) serves on the board as the FBC representative. She has provided the following update:

“Under the leadership of Susan Fisher, CEO, CART has made some wonderful progress this school year. There is an energy and excitement as you walk through the halls of CART. The students are engaged and proud of their work. The teachers have received a number national awards and recognition and Susan's leadership team continues to work hard to keep CART on the cutting edge of technology and education. With the recruiting efforts of Dan Resciniti, Dean of Curriculum and Instruction, the enrollment for the next school year is at capacity and there is a waiting list. The representation from Clovis Unified and Fresno Unified is much more balanced, which is a tribute to Dan's hard work and represents strong support by Michael Hanson, FUSD and Terry Bradley, CUSD. CART, also, has been recognized nationally as a model school. CART has regular visitors from throughout the United States. (One more opportunity for the Tourism Cluster)

CART is an excellent example of people working together in a collaborative environment to benefit the community as a whole. Susan and her team would love to give anyone interested a tour of the facility--they are very proud! It would be well worth your time. A gentle reminder. The CART Foundation is looking for members for the Circle of Promise. The Circle of Promise is CART's annual giving program of \$1,000 and above and it is central to the schools continuing success.”

**The Role of CART in Economic Development and Workforce Preparation**

The new version of the three R's in education is rigor, relevance and relationships. The rapid changes in the global economy, the necessity of a life long commitment to personal development and the need to develop collaborative skills have upped the ante for education. Partnerships with business are critical to educational success for our students and for our economy. Dave Spaur, the CEO of the Economic Development Corporation, showcases CART as an example of the innovative and collaborative strengths of our community. As we work to align the pathways created by the Regional Jobs Initiative's clusters with education, more of our youth will see the relevance of education and be willing to do the hard work to prepare for a life of contribution. The School-Business Toolkit developed by this years' Leadership Fresno Class provides one more resource to close the gaps between education and business.

**The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley**

Regions across the country are watching the development of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. Rather than the more traditional blue ribbon commission, the Partnership is driven by the entrepreneurial spirit that sparked the creation of the RJI and the intervention at Fresno Unified. The plans and recommendations from the task forces are specific, research-based and actionable. Our opportunity to make government work for us in a customized, results oriented way across many departments is at hand. Thanks to hundreds of people across the Valley who wrote, called and faxed legislators, the state is investing \$5 million dollars into the Partnership to insure that the plans become actualized. Our community has invested heavily in this effort on behalf of the region. Ashley Swearengin and Pete Weber, already working beyond capacity on the RJI, stepped up to insure that the Partnership's task forces develop solid action plans. Larry Fortune and countless others have provided the leadership needed to hold the many moving parts together. Fresno has much to be proud of...our civic entrepreneurs know how to lead change, collaborate and drive implementation plans.

**Fall Membership Meeting Slated for September 7 at the Craig School of Business**

The role of business in communities has steadily evolved. Where once the sectors pretty much kept to themselves, the reality of interdependence today is compelling. To compete in the global economy, regions must think strategically and collaborate effectively. At the meeting you will learn about the exciting vision of the new dean, Doug Hensler, and the next steps for the FBC. The meeting is scheduled from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. Please mark your calendars.