

May 8, 2006

Message From the Chair Emeritus—Dick Johanson

A couple of suggestions: First, plan to see the movie “Akeela and the Bee”. It is an inspiring story of a middle schooler and focuses on the importance of family and community support in enabling kids to attain their educational potential. You’ll leave the theatre bursting with a desire to become involved with our schools. Secondly, while your heart is still filled with gladness and warmth, contact ReadFresno at www.readfresno.org and find out how you and your employees can participate. Currently there are over 50,000 books that need to be distributed to school sites. They are also seeking mentors to read to our kids. Thank you to One by One Leadership, The United Way and Fresno State for your extraordinary contributions to this project. Go for it and you’ll have two warm feelings inside of you at the same time! It’s what the Business Council is all about—just taking the next step.

Change & Innovation Key to Survival; Essential For Success

Paradigm comes from the Greek word “paradeigma” which means model, pattern or example. In application, a paradigm is a problem-solving system made up of beliefs and often untested assumptions. Joel Barker, in his work on paradigms and change, has some useful insights into why it is often difficult to change paradigms and how we can better prepare ourselves and organizations for the inevitable. (www.starthower.com) We live in a time of paradigm shifts. Creating a supportive environment for change agents is a significant competitive advantage. According to Barker, you manage within a paradigm. You lead between them. Our community is in the midst of transformation. We are rising up out of silos and learning to collaborate. We are supporting steward leaders instead of narrow-minded partisans. We are raising standards above old comfort zones. “If we can learn to anticipate the future better, we need not fear it. In fact, we can welcome it, embrace it, prepare for its coming, because more of it will be the direct outgrowth of our own efforts.” Carpe Diem!

Technology Has Intensified the Generational Divide

According to a Deloitte. human resources briefing, the next generation of workers comes to the workplace with networking, multiprocessing and global-mindedness skills that older generations may not grasp. They bring new skills, new assumptions (paradigms) and new expectations. They are more skilled at multi-tasking, agile in making decisions, evaluating risks and managing dilemmas. They are flexible and persistent in the face of change and highly skilled in social networking and team activities. Four generations are working side by side in the workplace and in our communities. We have much to learn from one another as we navigate the churning waters of change. Be grateful to the horizon watchers.

Public Candidate Forum for Sheriff’s Race—Tuesday, May 9 at 7:30 a.m. at UBC

Politics Is Serious Business. The Fresno Business Council and Craig School of Business are hosting a public forum for the five candidates for sheriff. All have confirmed. The questions, time permitting, will include rural and urban crime, best use of limited resources, consolidation, staff morale, crime prevention strategies and qualifications for office. The forum is open to the public. Phoebe Wall Howard will moderate. The forum will be held on Tuesday, May 9 from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. at the University Business Center. (North on Woodrow off Shaw at Fresno State) Parking restrictions will be relaxed in the UBC lot.

Business Incubator Open House—May 9 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The Central Valley Business Incubator is having an Open House on Tuesday, May 9 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Incubator—2555 Clovis Avenue. (Next to CART, just south of the Sierra Vista Mall in Clovis) It will be an evening of networking with business professionals, city officials and community leaders.

Excellence in Business Awards—Wednesday, May 17th

Congratulations to this year’s winners of the prestigious Excellence in Business Awards. The winners are: The Specialty Crop Company, Self-Help Enterprises, County Bank, Family Health Care Network, ADCO Manufacturing, Agricultural & Priority Pollutants, Laboratory, Inc., Dirk Poeschel Development Services, The Charles McMurray Company, and Nelson’s Ace Hardware. Jack Stone will receive the Hall of Fame Award. The luncheon is Wednesday, May 17th at the Radisson. Thank you to The Fresno Bee for continuing to honor and inspire the best in business.