

February 6, 2006

**Message From the Vice President—Doug Davidian**

Three of the concepts in Jim Collins' monograph "Good to Great and the Social Sectors" struck me as critical in transforming Fresno into an authentically great community.

- ◆ First, Jim Collins' message is that the practice of leadership is not the exercise of power, but rather powerfully communicating values with utmost clarity.
- ◆ Second, commitment to these values must be founded in trust. Do members of the Business Council—a servant leader group—have the commitment and trust to work together toward a common goal and make an invaluable difference in our community?
- ◆ Last, can we imagine what our community would look like if every young person understood the American Dream and had the skills to attain and realize his or her dream? My parents, grandparents, and virtually every adult I knew as a child taught me the value of the education ladder in relation to the opportunity that emanates from the work ladder. Do the children in our community today hear a similarly clear message from caring adults?

Let's take it personally. We need to harness our leadership efforts and resources to make sure that every child is provided with opportunity and supportive encouragement. Every child needs to read with understanding by the end of the third grade to attain a level of future success. These goals must be achieved, with the clarity of community values as a foundation, if we are to move forward from a good community to a great one.

**Results—Is Good To Great Happening**

The annual meeting of the Regional Jobs Initiative is set for Tuesday, February 21, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the Fresno Convention Center, New Exhibit Hall III. This comprehensive effort is aimed at two primary things...jobs and systemic alignment. A written annual report will be available at the event and on the website.

**The Plan Becomes A Matrix—Creatives Are Serious About Improving the Community**

Last August, the Mayor of Fresno appointed a group of "creatives" to create a roadmap that would make the city more attractive to creative and knowledge workers. They had 90 days to go at it and they came up with an incredible report that has excited the community. It is about building an innovative and entrepreneurial infrastructure that will improve the quality of life and opportunity in the city and region. To read and download the report go to [www.fresnocec.org](http://www.fresnocec.org). In fact, if you are feeling burned out or discouraged, go to the site for an infusion of positive energy. The leaders have taken the report and developed a matrix of manageable pieces for individuals and task forces to implement. Fresno is clearly refining the recipe for success...recruit a small team of committed folks with serious skills, cast a powerful vision and craft a plan with actionable steps and begin implementing before the ink is dry.

**Upcoming Events and Meetings**

- 2.7.06 FBC Executive Committee from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at Deloitte
- 2.9.06--FBC Board of Directors Meeting from 4:00 to 5:30 at Deloitte
- 2.21.06—RJI Annual Meeting—Convention Center from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.
- 2.29.06—FBC Full Membership Meeting—7:30 to 9:00 at Kaiser.