

January 9, 2006

**Message from the President—Alan Pierrot**

It is that goal setting time of year and here is what the Fresno Business Council leadership proposes that the organization pursue in 2006:

1. Develop and support strategies and policies that will accelerate the transformation of our community & region from good to great.
  - a. Form a New Horizons Committee to:
    - i. Review local policies & practices and how they impact the region
    - ii. Recommend policies and actions for regional change
  - b. Develop a board and membership education program on policy issues of importance to the community
2. Raise \$500,000 in addition to membership dues, this year and every year in order to fund strategic initiatives.
3. Invest 75-80% of the CEO's time in the Regional Jobs Initiative and the Fresno Unified School District transformation effort, Choosing Our Future.

In those three goals you will find focus and an endorsement of current FBC activities in the RJI and FUSD, recognition of the need for more long range policy thinking and development for our region, and the understanding that we could do so much more if we had the resources and a commitment to attract those resources.

**Community Report Card—New Valley Times—2006 Release Date February 28**

Certain indicators are measured across the country to determine a community's economic, social and environmental health. These indicators are critical to economic development. With the Web and 24/7 news there is no where to hide. One of the projects of the Collaborative Regional Initiative, The New Valley Times, was a futuristic look at our community explaining the who, the what and the how of the transformation in our economy, educational achievement and environment. It's publication date was 2015. It was issued as a challenge and a promise. We know where we want to go and have many of the plans to get us there (Regional Jobs Initiative/Choosing Our Future/ReadFresno). The rest is up to us. The next version will be a report card on how we are doing and again, thanks to the Fresno Bee, will be distributed via its network. If you would like to sponsor this publication, call 559.449.6398. Thank you team leaders: Dan Doyle, Debbie Cohen & Suzanne Bertz-Rosa.

**2006 New Valley Inforum Brings National Thought Leaders to Town**

If you missed **Rebecca Ryan** last year, you have another chance. She is the founder and president of Next Generation Consulting, a firm that studies Americans' work and life trends. She recently won the "Entrepreneur of the Year" award from the United States Assoc. for Small Business & Entrepreneurship. Most importantly, with great humor and insight she has found a way to honor the past and embrace the future as we try to find our way in the global economy. Her topic this year is **Boomerangs: Bringing Back our Best & Brightest**. She will coach us on how to insure that our community has the opportunities, culture and leadership that will serve as a magnet to the entrepreneurs & knowledge workers who create vibrant economies. Rebecca will be speaking at the Fresno Memorial Auditorium, Thursday, January 26 at 6:30 p.m. For tickets call 559.294.2045 or visit [www.lylescenter.com](http://www.lylescenter.com). The other speakers this year are **Tiffany Shlain**, who on February 16 will speak about using the Web to shape social change and **Lynn Twist**, the author of **The Soul of Money** who will speak on this topic on March 14.

**Creating Capital—Financial, Social, & Intellectual**

Like many concepts that used to be limited to one domain, "capital" has found its way into all the ingredients needed for communities to compete and thrive in the global economy. Money without sound ideas and best practices has little return on investment. Money and a great idea, without a committed and talented team to execute, just spin their wheels. Many people are at work in our region to increase financial, social and intellectual capital. Fortunately, both resources and ideas can be brought in from the outside, as well as generated from within. Social capital is up to us. Social capital is about trust, commitment and action. In our community, many of us have committed to operating in accordance with the Community Values in order to build and sustain social capital. January is a great time for a refresher. Check them out on the FBC website.

