

March 1, 2007

**Message From the Leader of the Alliance for Regional Stewardship (ARS)—David Thornburgh**

The FBC has been part of both a state and national network of regions for many years. Together, we have been experimenting with strategies to create prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable communities and sharing best practices. At the outset, the Valley benefited greatly from the expertise and experiences of more established regions. Today, we have much to teach and have won national and state awards for innovation and excellence. The following message captures our implement as you go, bias for action strategy. For more information about ARS go to [www.regionalstewardship.org](http://www.regionalstewardship.org).

“We believe that globally competitive regions embrace and strive towards four interrelated goals:

- an economy built on innovation and entrepreneurship
- communities that are livable and sustainable
- a culture that embraces and offers opportunity to all
- a collaborative style of decision-making

What will separate the best regions and communities from the rest is the discipline, the tenacity, and drive to turn these ideas into realities.”

**Deal Breaker Questions for Transformation**

Those of us involved in major collaboratives talk a lot about transformation. Transformation requires embracing a mindset that is open to exploring possibilities, rather than arguing for limitations. At our Member Forum last week, Keith Bergthold offered some questions to ask to test our mettle. A growing number believe the answers to all three are yes.

**1. Do we see our potential to be great?**

- We understand our shared potential to be a globally significant urban and agricultural region
- We understand our shared potential to be a superlative place to do business, innovate, raise families, raise food, enjoy life, play outdoors...
- We understand our shared potential to be a **living example** for achieving a long-term and sustainable balance in healthy development of our economy, our natural environment and our society.

**2. Do we want to be great?**

- We know ourselves—We truly desire and are genuinely motivated to achieve our shared potential.

**3. Will we do what it takes to be great?**

- We will inspect and overcome our personal assumptions, attitudes, and other mental models that may prevent shared achievement
- We will build relationships that crossover and bridge interpersonal, professional and jurisdictional boundaries that may prevent shared achievement
- We will act together with respect and persistence toward our shared goals.

**City of Fresno Website Named Best In Class—Bravo!**

*Governing* magazine is a must read for people interested in outstanding practices in the business of state and local government. In the February issue, the National Policy Research Council named the top ten state and big city websites. Fresno headed the big city list followed by Tampa, New Orleans, Washington, D.C., and Houston. As for the states, Michigan was on top followed by Idaho, Indiana, Nebraska and Utah.

**In The End, It's All About Relationships—Wanted More School/Business Partnerships**

Wanted - businesses large or small to partner with local schools. We have a real and immediate need for additional businesses to work with our local schools. There may be no greater investment in the future that a business can make than to get involved with students at one of our schools. It provides untold benefits to the kids and the folks at the business enjoy the experience of giving back to the community in a tangible way. The Joint Task Force for School Business Partnerships will be hosting a reception for businesses and school leaders on March 15th at 4 PM at McCormick Barstow (5 River Park Place East - Across from Woodward Park) . This is an opportunity to hear about school business partnerships and their importance from various school and business leaders. It is promised to be low pressure with some good eats. You are all invited. If you would like to attend please RSVP to Mike Wilhelm at McCormick Barstow - 433-1300.