

November 19, 2007

Message From the Chair Emeritus—Richard Johanson

As we approach Thanksgiving Day it is appropriate that we paraphrase an old poem: “How many ways do I love you? Let me count the ways”. Let’s change the wording to “How many ways do I thank you?”

- I thank you for family and friends without whom there would be no worthwhile life.
- I thank you for those willing to commit time and resources to help the less fortunate.
- I thank you for the privilege of living in a land where we may have strong differences but strive to resolve them without rancor.
- I thank you for this Business Council and those who serve under the banner of the “Statement of Community Values”
- I thank you for the assurance that a better tomorrow is at hand throughout our region because so many care so much and are willing to engage.

Two Community Celebrations Signal Unity, Alignment & Commitment

First, it was the *Fresno Unified* celebration at the *Downtown Club*. Over 450 people from across the community came to honor the staff of *Fresno Unified* who are working so hard on behalf of our children and the members of the community that have stepped up to help. While there is a lot of work ahead, perseverance and Fresno have become synonyms. Then, *Fresno West Coalition* had a packed room for its Risk Takers, Dream Makers Awards Luncheon. This annual event honors people who are sacrificing time, energy and resources to improve the quality of life in our community. CEO **Keith Kelly** framed the event perfectly in his opening remarks. He reminded us of the courageous men who committed treason by signing the Declaration of Independence. He reminded us of the risks they took to fight for the dream of liberty for all. Words can never capture the experience of community and the satisfaction of making a difference. You have to engage.

California Green Innovation Index Released by Next 10

Next 10 in partnership with *Collaborative Economics* (Doug Henton’s shop) have released the California Green Innovation Index. The report analyzes key economic and environmental indicators to help us better understand the role of innovation in reducing greenhouse gases while growing the economy. There are important implications for our region as solar energy opportunities increase along with other energy and manufacturing innovations. The Index is available at www.next10.org.

Key themes include:

- **An Efficient Environment**—California is a world leader in energy efficiency.
- **Innovation Yields Savings and Spurs Growth**—the first wave of green innovation spurred economic growth and realized gains in efficiency, saving residents and businesses billions of dollars.
- **Increasing Investment**—A rising tide of investment suggests that California is poised to benefit from the second wave of innovation. In 2006, CA firms attracted 36% of total venture capital for energy technology.
- **The Challenge of Population Growth**—energy consumption are expected to rise with population challenging innovators to move faster.
- **A Positive Outlook**—While residents are concerned about global warming, they are optimistic that innovation can create jobs and expand prosperity.

Happy Thanksgiving—There will not be a new bulletin on November 26.

