

September 4, 2007

**Message From the Chair Emeritus—Richard Johanson**

If this Business Council has a cornerstone, it is its advocacy for interaction and leveraging of resources among agencies. People and organizations have lowered their drawbridges and drained the moats around their castles and are traveling an enlightened journey together. What we are witnessing is a regional economic, cultural and educational transformation that is attracting nationwide attention. Our roadway can be bumpy at times but most of us are riding on the same bus. Those few individuals and organizations who continue to espouse the “go it alone” route are unfortunately being left behind. What better way to celebrate Labor Day than to give thanks to those hard working visionaries who are charting the course.

**Lyles Center Seeks Mentors For Student Entrepreneurs**

Having a coach who has been there and done that often provides the nudge to accelerate entrepreneurial passions. The Lyles Center is starting year three of a program to support students with a business idea and a desire for self employment. Twenty students are selected for the program and they take the Johnson O’Connor Aptitude Test, take field trips to Silicon Valley and Los Angeles, and take part in workshops specially created by **Cathy Frost** and **Jane Yow**. Mentors are needed to provide council and support once a month. In addition, mentors are asked to make a presentation at a Friday seminar. **Prof. Tim Stearns** noted how much more focused students are these days and how many want to engage in the community as part of their college experience. These are our future business leaders. If you are interested in learning more, contact Tim at [timothy\\_stearns@csufresno.edu](mailto:timothy_stearns@csufresno.edu) .

**Villines & Cogdill Host 3<sup>rd</sup> Fresno-Madera Community Renewal Summit**

As part of their commitment to help build capacity and renew neighborhoods, **Assemblyman Mike Villines** and **Senator Dave Cogdill** have teamed up to present the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Fresno—Madera Community Renewal Summit. It has been designed to introduce opportunities to nonprofits for strengthening their organizations through grants and other funding ideas. It also provides an opportunity to build connections to leverage resources. The Summit is scheduled for Friday, September 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Cornerstone Conference Center downtown. For more information call 446-2029 or email [assemblymember.villines@asm.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.villines@asm.ca.gov).

**Fall Membership Forum--September 27-- 7:30 to 9:00 a.m.—University Business Center**

The FBC and Craig School of Business periodically host forums to inform and inspire members and partners of the FBC as we work together to create a healthy, safe and prosperous region. On September 27, we will roll out the Human Investment Initiative. The plan is multi-level and comprehensive. It aims to “link, align and leverage” the systems that impact human development behind shared strategies for individual and collective success. For complete execution, every one of us will have to take responsibility for life long improvement of character and competence. At a recent get together, a city leader asked if we were ready to become a great community. The most profound response, “Only if we are prepared to become great people.” If you would like to attend, please RSVP. If you would like a copy of the plan; it is available via email.

**ArtHop—The First Thursday of Each Month**

Judging from the beautiful postcards, the ArtHop, one of the most active programs sponsored by the Fresno Arts Council, is continuing to build momentum and social capital. There are over 70 participating artist studios, galleries, museums and other venues at this dynamic cultural event. On September 6, some of the highlights are new paintings by Larry Hill at the Downtown Club, photographs by Paul Mullins & Paul Mittig at the Mullins Studio Gallery at 525 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Old Town Clovis, paintings of John Kapetan at the Frank Arnold Art/Studio 58 at 359 O Street and an

employee art show at the Fresno City Hall. Arts and culture not only improve the quality of life in a community they provide an economic engine.