

Group 2
Draft Action Steps
March 15, 2007

“Creating a community of lifelong learning” is the focus for planning group 2. Our goal is to show how the Cumming-Forsyth County community can become a community of lifelong learning through a variety of means, **including cultural experiences through the arts and quality educational institutions and organizations.** **Our goal is to make Forsyth County a cultural center that integrates the arts into all aspects of our lives/community and where life long learning can be realized.**

Education Group’s Action Steps:

1. Forsyth County’s educational stakeholders will design and build a “communiversity.” (Definition: a community-based university that is diversified and fluid and entails partnerships that create synergy...any concept that brings the life-long educational needs of the community together.

- Create a four-year university in Forsyth County that offers post-graduate courses and is diversified
- Create a Forsyth County Collaborative of Learning Partners that brings together leaders of the Forsyth County School System, Lanier Tech, the new four-year college, the Forsyth County Library System, private education providers, major employers, senior services agencies and others with responsibility for education for residents and workers of all ages. The purpose of the Collaborative will be to provide vision, action and implementation to meet the learning needs of Forsyth County.
- Form a foundation made up of representatives from the Learning Partnership Collaborative to seek grant opportunities and serve as a clearinghouse for the “communiversity”. (I added this, so dump it if you don’t think it has fit and gets to the group discussion)

Ownership/who should be involved?

Foundations, local government, corporate support, small and large businesses, community members (civic engagement), K-12 schools, universities and technical schools and all associated learning partners.

2. Recognizing that all learning organizations have different goals and are measured against different standards, the educational systems in Forsyth County will be recognized nationally and internationally for excellence.

- Assess the potential implementation of nationally recognized standards for education, such as
 - a. Malcolm Baldrige Award for Quality. Currently Oklahoma and New York have won Malcolm Baldrige Awards.
<http://www.quality.nist.gov>

- Assess the potential implementation of internationally recognized standards for education.
 - **Provide** direction for any recognition opportunities that verify standards for excellence.
 - The business community *and government agencies support the Cumming- Forsyth County learning organizations in their pursuit of recognition for excellence.*
3. *The business community and learning organizations in Cumming-Forsyth County are recognized for providing leadership in Georgia for recruiting, educating, training, and retaining a future-oriented workforce – with the goal of repatriating the workforce in Forsyth County. (Hiring Highway).*
- *Forsyth County High Schools, Lanier Tech and four-year university offerings*
 - *Business community and learning organizations provide ongoing training and retraining of work force*
 - Work readiness
 - *Form* partnerships within the community for economic development
 - *Provide* seamless curriculum that continually supports the workforce needs for the future.
4. *All learning organizations in Cumming-Forsyth County offer access to education opportunities 24/7 (traditional, hybrid and virtual), which may be inclusive.*

Other ideas/considerations:

100% Literate community

Arts Group Action Steps:

Note: Avenues and Venues: Would like to craft action steps to convey a community that has a wealth of “avenues” (opportunities) and venues (outlets of the arts and cultural activities) that are shared by all.

Action Steps:

1. Forsyth County will establish an Arts Coalition with representatives from existing arts groups, the school district, parks departments, colleges and universities, the Chamber of Commerce, city government, county government and the private sector that will seek to:
 - Develop an arts directory of existing resources and support for cultural arts in Forsyth County
 - Develop and implement a county-wide plan for marketing and promotion of arts education/awareness and cultural arts activities through multiple media and venues to ensure that experiences are accessible to the community at large
 - Identify strategic partnerships and resources needed to facilitate support of the arts
 - Identify potential venue sites (public and private) and integration of existing services to encourage inclusion and expansion of cultural arts events, programs and services in the county (i.e. Lake Center-Lake Walk, Piedmont-type Park, Seasonal Outdoor Drama, Forsyth Idol Competition, and Annual Arts Summit, Feathers and Fins Festival)