



Education Goal Team Meeting Minutes

October 31, 2011; 4:30 pm

Great Rivers Co-op

Agenda

- Debby welcomed the group
- Education updates were given:
 - Gear-Up: This time the grant is STEM focused and will be working with students starting in the 5th grade. A new director, Cory Major, was hired to run the program beginning Nov. 15th.
 - Arkansas Scholars: Program started through the Chamber's Education Committee. Starts in the ninth grade and recognizes students with a good work ethic as demonstrated by: taking the Smart Core, graduating in 8 semesters, 95% attendance, C's in every academic subject.
 - Great River Promise: Rhonda has been struggling to get students to apply for this opportunity despite efforts to reach out. Any support or ideas are welcome.
- The group discussed the need for better integration and promotion of key education messages.
 - Lynn suggested the use of Channel 12 with community celebrities delivery messages about education.
 - A planning session was discussed to brainstorm opportunities
- The group reviewed the Goal Team's priorities for the coming year with the suggestion of retaining the college readiness goal and adding on a focus on early literacy. Debby King's work with Achieving the Dream and the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation has focused on students reading on grade level by third grade, which is a nice tie in to a Goal Team effort. All in attendance agreed to this addition to the group's focus.
- The group agreed to a two hour planning session, the week of November 14th to discuss early childhood as well as the coordinated promotion of education messages.
- The next meeting will be on a Monday in January 2011. Look for an email with the specific date and time.
- To facilitate better communication, a ½ page update with school and other goal team updates was recommended to be emailed out prior to the meeting. Julia and Tim will draft a template.