

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension

Iowa Vitality Center Annual Report

9-30-2007

Original Goals of the Project

- Stimulate networking among small and medium-sized rural communities
- Foster dialogue among diverse rural/urban interests
- Assess best practices, lessons learned, and alternative strategies for rural vitality
- Act as a catalyst in forming collaborations and innovative projects that enhance rural vitality
- Analyze impacts of policy on communities and rural areas leading to actionable strategies

Previous Progress Made toward the Original Goals

CVC organized in 2002. A board and governance structure was established with 17-30 rural leaders representing diverse interests. Community Entrepreneurship, Community Philanthropy, and Rural-Urban Policy Studies are three initiatives adopted for focus of CVC programs. During the first five years, CVC co-sponsored entrepreneurship support projects in more than 110 communities, conducted training and assisted in forming over 85 community philanthropy entities, and completed more than two dozen rural-urban policy studies and dialogue projects.

Major Accomplishments 2006-2007

A. National & Statewide Projects

- Organized Statewide Academy for Community Entrepreneurship: "Opportunities for Economic Gardening and Rural Entrepreneurial Networks." DMACC Polytechnic Campus, Newton, IA /90 participants/Oct 19, 2006
- Organized Statewide Academy for Community Philanthropy "Creating Excellence in Making a Difference" Hotel Fort Des Moines, Des Moines, IA /80 participants/ Feb. 20, 2007
- Co-Sponsored 3 Iowa Rural Development Council regional "Harvesting Resources for Iowa's Great Places" state and federal agency resource fairs for community leaders
- Organized Iowa Entrepreneurial Capital Assessment Project and Iowa Microenterprise Assistance Project in collaboration with Leopold Center, Iowa Bankers Association, Iowa Area Development Group, and 4 Iowa-based Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs and CDEs).
- Co-Sponsored National 2007 Farm Bill Rural Development Title discussions with rural leaders at 10 meeting locations across the U.S. with the Center for Rural Affairs and participated in 4 Iowa discussion meetings on same topic organized by the State Public Policy Group and Senator Harkin's staff.
- Co-Sponsored National Entrepreneurship Gathering Workshop, Fairfield, IA 40 participants
- "Iowa Micro-Entrepreneur Finance Association Concept" Presentation at the National Community Reinvestment Coalition Regional Conference Davenport, IA Aug 21, 2007
- Co-Sponsored Regional Economic Development Conference in Sioux City, IA
- CVC Newsletters are distributed to 2,500 local leaders
- CVC Web site updated and maintained <www.cvcia.org>

B. Regional/Local Community Entrepreneurship Projects

- Co-Sponsored MyEntreNet Workshop Series: Carroll, Poweshiek, Decatur, & Marion
- Co-Sponsored SW Iowa Coalition Microenterprise Workshop Series: Villisca & Red Oak
- Initiated High School Business Plan Competition Program in 17 nonmetro high schools

- Initiated Youth Marketplace program in 5 nonmetro middle schools
- Rural Community-based College Intern Project – Winneshiek County & Luther College
- Rural Community-based High School Intern Project – Van Buren County Schools
- Community-based Business Plan Competition – Henry Co/Mt Pleasant Chamber Alliance
- Initiated 3 Entrepreneurial Networks – Carroll County, Sac County, Iowa SBDC Network
- Completed Kitchen Incubator Study Tour Project – Iowa Valley Community College
- Completed NW Iowa 6-county Civic Entrepreneur Leadership Training Workshop series
- Co-Sponsored Northeast Iowa Economic Development Conference, Decorah, IA
- Presented two Seminars to Southwest Iowa Coalition Annual Meeting
- Collaborated with 4 regional Farm Bureau Renew Rural Iowa Seminar Networking Events

C. Community Philanthropy Projects

- Sponsored 4 Case Studies on Philanthropy Best Practices & Success Stories
- Legal Brief on Laws Relating to Philanthropy in support of Economic Development
- Legal Brief on Portability Provisions of Iowa Community Foundation Affiliate Agreements
- Completed 99 County Wealth Transfer Power Point Presentations for use by local leaders
- Collaborated with Iowa Council of Foundations in drafting Planned Gift Tax Credit Concept
- Presented 14 seminars on strategic planning, youth participation & other Philanthropy topics
- Conducted 2 Workshops for School Administrators on Community Development Leadership
- 4 Pilot Projects underway on School and Countywide Community Foundation Collaboration
- 2 pilot projects underway on philanthropy to support local entrepreneurship development
- Published “*Wealth Transfer: A Philanthropic Opportunity for Community Development Practitioners*” in Community Development, Vol 38-2. Summer 2007
- Presented “*\$5 Billion and Counting: Local Wealth Transfer Community Development and Public Purposes*” at American Sociological Assn Annual Meetings, NY, NY Aug 2007
- CVC collaborates with the Iowa Council of Foundations, Extension, Iowa Dept. of Economic Development, and Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center in organizing philanthropy education and training. These activities annually leverage \$2 million in state tax credits and revenues into \$12 million in donations to endowments and provides distributions of \$5 million in state revenues to 1,700 local agencies & nonprofits serving countywide needs

D. Rural-Urban Policy Studies Leading To Actionable Strategies

- Completed “*Reasons for Moving in Nonmetro Iowa: New Movers Survey Report #1*”
- Completed “*Work Factors and Moving in Nonmetro Iowa: New Movers Survey Report #2*”
- Provided analysis of data to Task Force looking at nonmetro use of New Market Tax Credits
- Provided data on rural population diversity and co-sponsored Iowa Diversity Conference
- Preliminary development of data base for Iowa Wealth Transfer by Gender
- Survey of Iowa Farmer Preferences on 2007 Farm Bill Policy Alternatives with NASS-Iowa
- Co-sponsored Survey of Iowa Bankers Assn on Gaps in Entrepreneurial Assistance & Capital
- Co-sponsored Survey of ISU Extension on Micro Entrepreneur Assistance Needs & Interests
- Preliminary Development of Multi-institutional Center for Governing Excellence Concept

E. Leverage of Federal funds

- CVC requires a dollar for dollar match for local projects; \$90,000 matched entrepreneurship projects; \$50,000 matched philanthropy projects; ISU provides salary, office, and indirect match of \$125,000; The \$265,000 combined total is more than a dollar for dollar local match for federal funds received.
- CVC annually collaborates with more than two dozen diverse groups during project implementation