

## EDP – NEWLY/RE-ELECTED LOCAL OFFICIALS CONVERSATIONS

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### Conversation I: Fri, 12-14-18

- *Listening Session/Conversation*
  - What does Economic Development mean to you? Expansion of business; growth, infrastructure; jobs, stability; entrepreneurs; downtown development; tourism; relationships
  - Three Discussion Questions
    - **What are your economic development aspirations for your community?**
      - Change focus to retaining small business, not recruiting large industry. Incubator for small businesses. Improved relationships with private landowners.
      - More industry, more jobs. Continue quality of life. Not enough focus on small business development.
      - Education of labor force. Housing options in Danville—Centre employees reside in Lex. Young professionals.
      - Housing and lifestyle—lots of physicians reside in Lex. Tax base grow as result. Includes more retail, entertainment, restaurant options. Wage growth.
      - Local education system that can respond to comm workforce needs than just state ed requirements.
      - Minorities, young single professionals do not want to live/work here. The community’s diversity and inclusion could be improved.
      - Planned growth, job creation via large, small employers. Community be integral part of economic development. Continue to develop assets. Improved workforce availability, training.
      - Engage entire community for preparing workforce talent.
      - We all get along!
      - No housing mkt except for \$125-175k homes; proven time and again.
      - Downtown housing options are desirable.
    - **What challenges do we face in reaching these aspirations?**
      - Available, affordable property with willing investors. Workforce dev/skills, drugs. Housing—where do 100-job factory employees live?
      - Desire to start small business in Danville, but can’t afford available property or bldg lease. International competition. Question about value of trails investment.
      - Need to support small business development.
      - Transportation around town, employees getting to work.
      - Walkability.
      - Community education on economic development.
      - Common goal—working together.
      - Funding—investment that will get a strong return.

- Staffing to meet the community's needs.
- **What needs to change in the community to reach our aspirations?**
  - Education on community assets, positives, and EDP work—what business has been retained, what is EDP doing?
  - Marketing Committee—conversations re: community ed components in SP, prevents board/staff from time dedicated to business development; responsibility should fall on board members, Partners. Weak link—are reps of 9 Partners communicating EDP's message, work? Advocacy!
  - Talking points identified for each EDP board meeting to share with Partner tribes?
  - Focus—can't do everything.
  - Communication within the Partnership and with community. Funding support—investment vs. expense, competitors fund more \$. Attitudes—work together.
  - Branding—embrace bold ideas or risky ventures.
  - Perspective—comparison to other communities to appreciate what we have. We are not Lex. Comparison to Pikeville. Seems like we work always to combat the negative.
  - Resource allocation. Not a matter of throwing more money at it.

**Conversation II:** Mon, 12-17-18

- *Listening Session/Conversation*
  - Introduction: Review first part of Partnership at a Glance document. Reviewed history, board restructure. Directed to Transparency Archive at website for bylaws.
  - **What does Economic Development mean to you?**
    - Organization or entity generating industrial/company jobs in our area that generate tax revenues.
    - Added “Mom and Pop” shops, small business employers. Also maintaining cultural, historic characteristics of the community for business recruitment. Collaborative efforts with the region and state.
    - Improving the business environment for development.
    - Business retention.
    - Attract and retain.
    - Accountability for results, how to track.
    - Increase of growth and opportunity in the community.
  - Three Discussion Questions
    - **What are your economic development aspirations for your community?**
      - Recognize role of Forkland.
      - BCTC essential—“working man and woman of Boyle County has been largely ignored.” Not doing enough to promote vocational training programs.
      - More focus on litter free, clean community; referred to importance to Toyota in choosing KY.

- Recognition and inclusion for Junction City, Perryville, and other communities. Not just Danville.
  - Believed jail was primary concern during campaign, but now more aware of concern for increased tax base/revenues for county services. Example, LSC Communications—new ownership, possible closure; what are we doing to avoid this because it would be a catastrophic revenue loss for county.
  - EDP needs to demonstrate forward thinking; perception that focus is on larger industrial projects.
- **What challenges do we face in reaching these aspirations?**
    - Infrastructure and broadband access.
    - “Overcoming the history of silo-ism.”
    - Second chance for felons for gainful employment. Noted the recent expungement fair.
    - BCTC should be included in each of the three question areas—aspiration, challenge, and change.
    - Funding necessary to implement the recommendations of the SP. We never will have enough resources to do everything we want, must prioritize; roughly \$200,000 short for full implementation.
    - Are we communicating with corporate HQs about employment limitations to felons? Yes, some companies have removed this as a limiting factor. Shared Shepherd’s House and possible state program for drug treatment/rehabilitation to save jail costs and prepare for employment. Also noted issues with sentencing/bonds that prohibits re-entry for needed workers.
    - Quality of life must be more family-friendly.
  - **What needs to change in the community to reach our aspirations?**
    - History—better recognition of our local history, example, Samuel McDowell’s role in Kentucky statehood. Grow and update Constitution Square.
    - Better collaboration between City of Danville and Boyle County government.
    - Can EDP budget focus on high-return opportunities or trends rather than trying to do everything it does?
    - The public believes “what have you (EDP) done for me lately” in a larger sense. How to articulate these accomplishments is critical.