



December 4, 2006

Dear All:

Attached you will find the complete set of recommendations that has been received from the community so far. You have worked very hard to create these solutions to address poverty in our community and to improve the quality of life for all Athenians. Thank you for your work!

There are over 100 recommendations addressing a variety of issues including Education, Early Learning, Dependent Care, the Economy, Housing, Health, Workforce, Mentoring, Service Providers, Transportation, and Adult Education.

Your participation and recommendations have made several things very clear. First, poverty affects all of us. It reflects negatively on our community and limits economic growth. Poverty makes government, education, health care, and social services more expensive not just for the poor, but for everyone.

As a community we have learned that the issues of poverty are interrelated and must be addressed with a holistic approach. High expectations must be maintained not only of our citizens, but also of our institutions. Business as usual is not working. To break the cycle of poverty we need innovation and creativity.

During the next two months we will continue working with the committee chairs and Steering Committee to research and refine the recommendations. The Steering Committee will agree upon the set of PPA recommendations at its retreat in February. These PPA recommendations will be posted on the web and discussed with you at Town Meetings in March prior to them being sent to the Co-Conveners for their approval. Your continued involvement is critical to ultimate success.

Thank you for your commitment to our community!

Sincerely,
Steve Jones, Chairman
Partners For A Prosperous Athens

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION WORKSHEET

I. List the Learning(s) that this recommendation is addressing:

One of the underlying reason why high school students drop out or perform below their capacities is that they lack a sufficiently hopeful and well-informed sense of what kinds of life work they might look ahead to. Such students tend to have little motivation in pursuing their schooling, because they are uncertain and adrift. Accompanying this inadequate understanding of the kinds of challenging and rewarding work that people actually do is a lack of compelling conviction that schooling will play a crucial part in their ability to choose and to pursue successfully a worthwhile vocation.

- **WRITE THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION** (limit focus to one subject or action item, more than one recommendation may be needed to address a particular learning):**

Provide ACC students with broader exposure to career and college choices at an earlier (i.e. elementary school) age.

- **Identify any research, or other kinds of information that was used to craft this recommendation.** (add additional sheets as necessary)
- **Identify additional research or information that could help clarify this committee recommendation. List potential sources if possible.**
- **Indicate people or groups that we need to talk to help clarify this committee recommendation. List any recommended locations.**
- **What kind of action or resources would be necessary to implement the recommendation?**
 - a. Offer more off-campus learning opportunities, particularly at the elementary school level (children are more impressionable and investment of limited 'field trip' funds should be made where they can have the biggest impact).
 - b. Change 'career days' to allow for more individualized focus – surveying interest in advance to ensure a match between students and professionals; provide opportunities for discussions/demonstrations of selected jobs/careers AND what it takes to get there.
 - c. Seek business and other private underwriting for field trips.

- d. Expand the program currently at the 4 middle schools where businesses come into the schools to discuss what they do and what is needed to be part of that business.
- e. Encourage earlier researching of options and opportunities.
- f. Take care to make certain the emphasis is on (1) expanding each student's informed sense of the range and variety of the work people do, rather than on a premature narrowing in on the route to a particular "job," and (2) encouraging each student to feel that success is possible, rather than overly-stressing the hurdles that stand in his or her way.

II. Indicate what forces and influences are likely to occur that will support or oppose implementation.

Forces that support (please list):

Forces that oppose (please list):

****As information is received and/or clarified, these potential recommendations may change or be discarded.**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION WORKSHEET

I. List the Learning(s) that this recommendation is addressing:

- **WRITE THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION** (limit focus to one subject or action item, more than one recommendation may be needed to address a particular learning):**
Ensure all ACC students have access to post secondary education.
- **Identify any research, or other kinds of information that was used to craft this recommendation.** (add additional sheets as necessary)
- **Identify additional research or information that could help clarify this committee recommendation. List potential sources if possible.**
- **Indicate people or groups that we need to talk to help clarify this committee recommendation. List any recommended locations.**
- **What kind of action or resources would be necessary to implement the recommendation?**
 - a. Create local, need-based scholarships for those who cannot get HOPE
 - b. Lobby public officials at the state level to include need as a component of HOPE
 - c. Increase students' knowledge of scholarships and financial aid
 - Add additional counselors at high school level (current ratio of 400 students per counselor doesn't allow adequate time to help search for and complete college scholarship applications)
 - Volunteers needed to assist students with application forms, searching for scholarships
 - Match a student and a 'mentor' solely for the purpose of helping the student find and apply for scholarships and financial aid.

d. Create a uniform scholarship application for all county/local scholarships – students complete this and select the ones they want to apply for (similar to Washington County, Mississippi program).

- **Indicate what forces and influences are likely to occur that will support or oppose implementation.**
Forces that support (please list):

Forces that oppose (please list):

****As information is received and/or clarified, these potential recommendations may change or be discarded.**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION WORKSHEET

I. List the Learning(s) that this recommendation is addressing:

- **WRITE THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION** (limit focus to one subject or action item, more than one recommendation may be needed to address a particular learning):**

Develop a comprehensive vo-tech, life skills, career development program for all students starting at an early age. An emphasis would be placed on the Chamber playing a proactive role and empowering employers to develop programs to address real workforce needs.

- **Identify any research, or other kinds of information that was used to craft this recommendation.** (add additional sheets as necessary)
- **Identify additional research or information that could help clarify this committee recommendation. List potential sources if possible.**
- **Indicate people or groups that we need to talk to help clarify this committee recommendation. List any recommended locations.**
- **What kind of action or resources would be necessary to implement the recommendation?**

II. Indicate what forces and influences are likely to occur that will support or oppose implementation.

Forces that support (please list):

Forces that oppose (please list):

****As information is received and/or clarified, these potential recommendations may change or be discarded.**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION WORKSHEET

I. List the Learning(s) that this recommendation is addressing:

- **WRITE THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION** (limit focus to one subject or action item, more than one recommendation may be needed to address a particular learning):**

Provide more workforce planning for students with employers coming into the classrooms as well as providing real work internships.

- **Identify any research, or other kinds of information that was used to craft this recommendation.** (add additional sheets as necessary)
- **Identify additional research or information that could help clarify this committee recommendation. List potential sources if possible.**
- **Indicate people or groups that we need to talk to help clarify this committee recommendation. List any recommended locations.**
- **What kind of action or resources would be necessary to implement the recommendation?**

II. Indicate what forces and influences are likely to occur that will support or oppose implementation.

Forces that support (please list):

Forces that oppose (please list):

****As information is received and/or clarified, these potential recommendations may change or be discarded.**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION WORKSHEET

I. List the Learning(s) that this recommendation is addressing:

- **WRITE THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION** (limit focus to one subject or action item, more than one recommendation may be needed to address a particular learning):**

Provide a comprehensive Career Pathways program in our schools which would include collaboration with employers to provide apprenticeship opportunities for students.

- **Identify any research, or other kinds of information that was used to craft this recommendation.** (add additional sheets as necessary)
- **Identify additional research or information that could help clarify this committee recommendation. List potential sources if possible.**
- **Indicate people or groups that we need to talk to help clarify this committee recommendation. List any recommended locations.**
- **What kind of action or resources would be necessary to implement the recommendation?**

II. Indicate what forces and influences are likely to occur that will support or oppose implementation.

Forces that support (please list):

Forces that oppose (please list):

****As information is received and/or clarified, these potential recommendations may change or be discarded.**