

Gering-Scottsbluff Meeting Recorded Notes

Over-arching Themes:

Shine Theory: I don't shine if you don't shine

What's good for one community is a benefit for all communities in our region

Solutions will come from growing what we have

On-going regional collaboration is very important

Embrace differences and new ideas

Education

Assets:

Favorable teacher to student ratio

Preschools within schools- SB, Hemingford

Variety of Christian school options

Head Start, Early Head Start, Healthy Families America, Home visitation program

Awareness of the challenges we face

Sign language teaching

Things to grow:

Regionally coordinated alternative education (VALTS, etc.)

Distance learning

Relevance in curriculum

Service learning

Job shadowing

Adapting regulations to allow apprenticeships in a field of choice

Facilities

Dual Credit Opportunities

Focus on first 3 years

Healthy lifestyle teaching

More options of learning for different career paths

Homeschooling groups

Grow the family centered focus-educating parents too

MOPS- educating parents

Support network for young parents

Continuing Education

Assets:

Eastern Wyoming College

Chadron State College (CSC)

Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC)

CAPWN Health Center- training program

Training Academies- Cabela's, PPHHS, Regional West

Nursing School

University of Nebraska- Extension

Partnerships with Bellevue University, ESU, CSC

Things to grow:

Offer internships and scholarships
Training for tradesmen
Courses in sustainability
Service learning, job shadowing
Community issue + school curriculum + community partner
IT skill learning
Distance learning
Web-based entrepreneurship education
Connections to community and businesses

Other Opportunities

Tourism signage, route legibility
Grow strengths of history
Medical tourism
Bicycles, trails
Heartland Expressway funding
Alternative Transportation
Business recruitment for region rather than specific towns
Creative worker recruitment
Recruit workers not doctors
Business succession planning
Business incubation
Shortage of tradesmen
Local Grocery systems- Small communities suffer
Availability of organic/local food
WiFi Connectivity
Web Presence for businesses and communities
Medical facilities looking/thinking outside the box
Information about our area to new comers
Sustainability in decision making (Social, environmental, & fiscal)
Use vacant/dilapidated available infrastructure
Landfill- waste to energy
Edible landscape
More avenues for artistic expression
Cross generational collaboration
Cross cultural opportunities
Utilize NEXT, young people more fully
Use retired people for experience, time, and knowledge