

**Clark County Strategic Plan
Co-Chair Meeting
December 3, 2009**

The Clark County Strategic Plan Co-Chairs met for a meeting on December 3, 2009 at the South West Arkansas Technology Learning Center (SWATLC). The following members were present: Lewis Shepherd, Chester Clark, Lonnie Jackson, Tom Calhoon, Shawnie Carrier, Jimmy Bolt, Margo Green, Ginger Overturf, Donnie Whitten, Wesley Kluck, Shelley Loe and Carrie Roberson.

Dr. Kluck reported that Linda Eaves has resigned as the Tourism co-chair and Steve Orsburn has resigned from the CCSP Finance Committee. Replacements will be made to replace the vacancies. Dr. Kluck thanked both members for their dedicated service to the CCSP.

Dr. Kluck thanked Lewis Shepherd for hosting the meeting. Lewis gave the following report on SWATLC:

- Southwest Arkansas Technology Learning Center is a workforce training consortium of local industry, education and training providers focused on the continuous development of a well trained, competent existing and emerging workforce for Clark County and the surrounding area.
- SWATLC works with local public schools to offer industrial maintenance classes. Students who take the class are concurrently enrolled with Ouachita Technical College and upon completion, have 30 hours towards an Associates Degree.
- SWATLC also offers free computer classes to displaced workers. There are 38 students currently enrolled.
- On January 28 at 9:00 a.m. the center will unveil a new name for the center. The public is invited to attend.

The following sub-committee reports were presented:

- HOUSING-Tom Calhoon reported that he has visited with several realtors who are reporting the volume of home sales are down and due to tight lending underwriting requirements, development may slow down. The construction of the first two houses in the Somerset Subdivision has started.
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-Lonnie reported the Arkadelphia Regional Economic Development Alliance has approved a grant for half of the funding of the BR&E program. AREDA will partner with HSU's Small Business Development and Technology Learning Center to offer businesses retention and expansion services to local businesses within Clark County. A grant has been submitted to the CCSP to fund the remaining half of the program, results are pending. A packet of information was recently sent to Paul Michael's, a home décor store based out of Lake Village, AR, to encourage them to come to Arkadelphia for a potential store site.
- HEALTHCARE- Margo Green reported volunteers are still needed for Clark County Charitable Health Services. The program has been very successful and is providing a much needed service to the community. Margo acknowledged that the program would not be successful without the support of

the local medical/dental community. Margo also reported the Healthcare subcommittee recently heard a proposal from Evergreen Village. It was also reported the Dr. Shelly Perrin and Dr. McClain Simpson are interested in supervising a nurse practitioner in Gurdon.

- EDUCATION-Donnie Whitten reported the second year of the Arkadelphia College Prep Academy is going well. Currently, 48 students are enrolled representing all three Clark County School Districts. Clark County Child Care has hired a new director and 90-95 students are enrolled. Donnie reported the Education Subcommittee next's goal is the creation of an educational foundation.
- TOURISM-Carrie Roberson reported construction of the DeGray Hiking/Biking trail should begin early 2010. Also, remodeling of the Visitor's Center should start in January with an anticipated completion/opening of July 2010. The City of Arkadelphia has submitted a feasibility study grant to the Arkansas Parks & Tourism Department for the Caddo Nation project. The matching portion of grant has been submitted to Southern for consideration.

Shawnie Carrier invited the committee to the open house reception of the new AREDA/Chamber offices scheduled from Thursday, December 18 from 5 – 7 p.m. The new office is located on Pine Street.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:
Carrie Roberson