



COMMUNITY REPORT

August 2007

F.O.C.U.S. CORE GROUP HOLDS FORUM: F.O.C.U.S. took advantage of an unusual opportunity when presenter and author Jennifer Vey of the Brookings Institution was unable to attend the F.O.C.U.S. Core Group on August 10, 2007. Instead, we held an open forum on “What citizens can do in central/upstate NY based on the report “Restoring Prosperity: The State Role in Revitalizing America’s Older Industrial Cities”. The 54 citizens who attended were each given a copy of the report. The many ideas generated at this session were communicated to key state officials and their local representatives.

The lively conversation centered on the concept that *state and local leaders need a comprehensive, integrated urban agenda that consolidates all planning reports and creates ACTION – identifying by whom and how the agenda will be implemented.* It was strongly recommended that state and local officials include citizen input and citizen participation. There was interest and support for **F.O.C.U.S. to update the 1998 Citizens’ Visions and Goals by conducting a region-wide re-visioning, asking ordinary citizens again to contribute their ideas as was done by F.O.C.U.S. ten years ago**

(A full report on the Core Group conversation is available @ F.O.C.U.S.).

CITIZENS’ ACADEMY: There were many more applicants this year than the two previous years. We anticipated a class of 30 students but increased the number to 36 based on popular demand!!! The members of this year’s class come from towns and villages and almost every zip code in the City. Facilitators for the sessions are Academy graduates of the previous year – another benefit from the whole experience. University College at S.U. and F.O.C.U.S. are pleased that we could offer the Citizens Academy again in 2007.

NEXT CORE GROUP: Friday, September 7, 2007 @ 7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. on the 7th floor of City Hall Commons, 201 E. Washington St.

“F.O.C.U.S. on BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: BUILDING CAPACITY THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION”

Presenters are: Dr. Bruce Kingma and Stacey Keefe, both involved in the Entrepreneurship and Innovation program at S.U. funded by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. They may be interested in receiving proposals for innovative projects.

KEEP ON TOP OF WHAT IS GOING ON IN OUR REGION

FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP

EVERYONE IS WELCOME