

Regional Leaders Seminar Series

October 2003 - June 2004

FIRST SERIES: "THE REGIONAL ECONOMY"

Session 1: (October 13)

Presenters: Regional Economists—Joe Cortright, Portland, and Eric Hovee, Vancouver

Content:

- What does a healthy regional economy look like?
(Group discussion: What does our regional economy look like to you? What are its most important components?)
- How and why "the region" is the new locus of economic development and competition nationally and internationally
- How the Portland-Vancouver region stacks up competitively, economically, politically, culturally (strengths, weaknesses; where we're behind others)
(Group discussion: Based on 2-3 key questions offered by the economists related to the session's content)

Session 2: (November 10)

Presenters: Hovee and Cortright

Content:

- The Portland-Vancouver region "by the numbers", including resource base, work force, geographic base, industrial and commercial capacity, knowledge-based industries, etc. Emphasis on regional economic components raised by the participants in first session's initial group discussion.
- Key industry clusters in this region. What's an industry cluster and why is it important to a regional economy.
(Group discussion: Based on 2-3 key questions offered by the economists on industry clusters.)
- Setting the stage (for the remainder of the seminar series): challenges posed by the economists to the participants on what questions need to be asked and answered as the group proceeds to look at the problems and opportunities of shaping an effective regional economy that can function and compete effectively.

Sessions 3 and 4: A Closer Look at a Couple of Industry Clusters in our Region

Presenters: Panel of experts and practitioners from each of the industry clusters to be examined.

Content: Session 3 (December 8) will focus on the nursery industry in the region; session 4 (January 12) will focus on the high-tech industry in the region

- Both sessions will examine: the nature of the cluster, the growth opportunities and future prospects for the cluster, critical issues and obstacles facing the industries, how the cluster might fit into a long-term economic strategy to make the region more competitive in the global marketplace.
(Group discussion: Based on 2-3 key questions posed by the panel to the participants.)

Sessions 5 and 6: Views from the Outside (tentative)

Presenters: For Session 5 (February), the Institute has invited Paul E. Harrington, Center for Labor Market Studies, Northeastern Univ., Boston, MA. to make a presentation.

His presentation (tentative): Our Region's Work Force and How It Stacks Up with others in the country. Case study of a regional work force that is helping makes its region an effective competitor in the global marketplace.

For Session 6 (March), the Institute has invited Mary Jo Waits, Assoc. Director, Morrison Institute for Public Policy, Arizona State, to make a presentation.

Her presentation (tentative): A Regional Economic Strategy That Works (case study and analysis of how the strategy was developed and is organized, what ingredients are essential to success, why it's effective today.) What this region can learn from this example.

(Group discussion: In both sessions, the group participants will respond to key questions raised by the presenters.)

Sessions 7 and 8 (April and May) : Critical Issues for this region in framing a Regional Economic Strategy

(Group discussion)

The seminar group will select 2-3 key issues that need to be resolved if an effective regional economic strategy is to be drafted for this metropolitan area.

The group will then go on during the course of these two sessions to examine those issues, and potentially draft conclusions toward addressing them.

Potentially, the group will receive assistance from Cortright and/or Hovee in the development of their conclusions.

Session 9 (June) Next Steps

Critique of group's conclusions by Cortright and/or Hovee.

Group discussion on the economists' critique.