

**UNWA Town Hall Meeting  
Employment, Education, and Jobs Committee Discussion  
October 14, 2004**

**Facilitator:** John Hall

**Discussion:**

1. Historically, persons could get a job that would pay enough to live on with just a high school diploma. Now, persons need to further their education beyond high school, including vocational training for 'hands-on' work
2. In UNWA, there are 320 businesses that employ over 4,000 people, however, unemployment rate is 13.7%, compared to County average of 5.4%
3. Recognized potential benefits from new BioCrossroads initiative by the City and State

Lack of basic education recognized -

4. Need for GED programs for adults; basic education for grades 9 thru 12.
5. Recognized a heavy need for literacy programs for children and adults
6. Tutoring needs are prevalent
7. After-school programs exist, but, need further emphasis
8. Current education needs not being met
9. Currently trying to emphasize student improvement in the classroom – encouragement
10. Reading comprehension should be focal point, linked to higher education
11. Educational resources exist (three grade schools, one charter school, and IVY Tech College) but are underutilized by neighborhood residents.
12. Need to tie community efforts and initiatives together
13. Increase after-school enhancement of skills, focusing on reading skills
14. Find a motivator for youth to excel
15. Current problems include young families that are not motivated
16. Higher educated areas are proven to have higher property values, lower educated with lower property values

Adult programs needed -

17. Job training is needed in the community for those who want to work but lack the skills necessary
18. Need for adult post-high school education programs to focus on job skill training
19. Use existing educational facilities to locate vocational skills training courses
20. Need to improve arts and culture in the neighborhood
21. Indiana Avenue had an extensive arts and culture past that is now gone
22. City should help neighborhood businesses to expand
23. Incorporate ethics and honesty in schools
24. Vast need for computer skills training in 21<sup>st</sup> Century
25. UNWA, Inc. does conduct computer training – problem is few people motivated to attend
26. Re-entry program for former prisoners is needed – education/training/life skills
27. Huge need for day care that is affordable for one or two-income families
28. People cannot afford daycare AND go to job or attend training

Appearance problem -

29. City services appear to have decreased – large numbers of trash problems, poor condition of sidewalks, junk cars, code enforcement
30. Some areas look like 'combat zone'
31. Police not patrolling area as needed; waiting for crime to occur
32. Need for strong group of leaders to be in charge and to get tasks done

Needs:

1. GED
2. Basic Education (math/science) Computer skills mandatory
3. Literacy (reading programs for parents, also)
4. Programmed for higher education
5. Tie Community efforts and initiatives together, partnering collaboration
6. Increase after-school enhancement of skills, especially reading
7. Find a motivator for youth to excel
8. Job training/retraining
  - a. Tap neighborhood 'experts' to train residents
9. Job center (placement/identify problems)
10. Link IUPUI with Flanner House and other not-for-profits for training and job opportunities
11. Bring more arts/culture to UNWA
12. Provide residents with information of available resources
13. Re-entry programs for ex-offenders / job training for ex-prisoners
14. Program to train life-skills
  - a. Cooking healthy and wisely
  - b. Cleaning clothes
15. Need for affordable day care for parents who are:
  - a. Training
  - b. Working
  - c. In school
16. To attract employment/companies
  - a. City services need to improve
    1. streets/sidewalks
  - b. Code enforcement
  - c. Trash collection / high weeds / junk car removal / other garbage
17. Need a 'strong' group to be in charge / motivated to improve neighborhood - 'Getting things done'

People who have agreed to be on the Employment, Education and Jobs Committee:

Facilitator: John Hall

Members: Daphne Williamson, J. Y. Brown, Ronald Peck, Shauna Roberts, Dolores Thornton, Robert Polk, and Betty Jiles.

**Next Meeting:**

**The next meeting of the Employment, Education and Jobs Committee will be Thursday, October 21 at 5:30 p.m. at Riverside Center Conference Room.**

Notes taken by Jeff York, Department of Metropolitan Development, City of Indianapolis.