

## **Minutes From Nov. 21, 2000 Update & Partnership Meeting at the Mexican Heritage Plaza**

### **Meeting Goal**

To collaborate and partner with organizations whose programs serve the Latino community by eliminating the gaps in opportunity known collectively as Digital Divide.

### **Meeting Objective**

To identify ways in which our organizations can mutually reach this goal, particularly through programs that address Silicon Valley's academic achievement gap, workforce gap, and technology access gap.

### **Audience in Attendance (see attachment for complete list):**

Superintendents

Community Block Organizations

Community Leaders

Job training center directors

Community technology center representatives

### **Individual Comments**

**Ruben Barrales:** discussed the reason for hosting the meeting and what Joint Venture is doing on the Digital Divide issue. He also encouraged and welcomed their input and comments on JV's COMPACT.

**Sen. Vasconcellos:** Reviewed the history of the Latino Advancement Project and how Joint Venture took the issue on as the Digital Divide and the efforts that have occurred since Nov. 1999. He emphasized and urged the need of high tech and the community to get involved with JV's DD effort, "this is where morality and self-interest converge to work together."

John mentioned the creation of JVSV's newest initiative, SV-CAN.

**Jose Villarreal:** Mentioned that SV-CAN is currently focused on the Livable Communities (i.e. smart growth and housing issues) and Shared Prosperity goals of SV 2010. SV 2010 is a vision for Silicon Valley that was developed through the input of many Silicon Valley residents and leaders. SV 2010 is a vision for Silicon Valley as a place to live and work. There are seventeen goals to this vision that address issues such as transportation, arts and culture, and civic engagement.

**Rosa Amador:** gave an overview of SV-CAN's digital divide forum held in March. She mentioned the wide participation from many of the surrounding communities.

**Michael Kass:** gave an overview of the Mission Critical event and his teacher collaborative initiative. He offered to send more information on JVSV's effort on the achievement gap.

### **Comments from attendees:**

1. Parents need to be involved or be part of JVSV's list of possible solutions for bridging the DD. Joint Venture incubated the Families and Schools Together (FAST), which helps to empower parents.
2. The Parent Institute in the Alum Rock and Franklin McKinley school districts is an example of programs to outreach to parents to become better advocates for their children.
3. It was suggested that a model outside of school districts is preferred. Sacred Heart Community Services has the Parent Independent Action that teaches parents to be better advocates for their families.
4. A role model program that utilizes the Society of Latino Engineers & Scientist (SOLES) needs to be in schools to help motivate Latino children.
5. There need to be greater recruitment for mentors from Silicon Valley corporations.
6. Job training CBO's need more corporate partnerships to help maintain updated hardware and software and job skills current
7. CBO's need help in identifying entry-level jobs to help the current workforce get into high-tech jobs
8. Support is needed for outreach events such as the Latina Leadership Conference, which has been growing but was unable to occur this year because due to lack of funding. This conference targets Latina teens to encourage them to go on to college.
9. There is need for a mentor-training program for mentors to become more effective.
10. There should be government (state and federal) funding for CBO's to parent education.
11. There needs to be smart healthy technology centers. (John V. asked Pete Carrillo to provide a description of what a smart healthy technology center is and does).
12. JVSV's Compact needs to have greater focus.
13. People in low-income communities need to be educated/informed of the DD and how it is impacting them and their communities. Literature explaining such needs to be written in Spanish.
14. Incentives need to be given to encourage well-prepared teachers to go to low performing schools.
15. There needs to be more teacher preparation resources in low-achieving districts.

16. JVSV's DD efforts should also help high achieving students (*Enlace Program* at Evergreen College, which provides support services to Latino Students) to stay in college.
17. JVSV's COMPACT efforts should be a long-term commitment to ensure that successful programs are supported and funded so that they continue to help those in need.
18. The attendees mentioned the need for collection of data identifying all programs that are helping people bridge the Digital Divide. As a start, The United Way produces an annual directory with information on agencies providing services in Silicon Valley.
19. Additional Groups to be invited to future meetings (suggested by Victor Garza):
  - American GI Forum (288-9471)
  - Alum Rock Counseling Center (294-0500)
  - Northside Community Center (271-7315)
  - Enlace at Evergreen College (ex. 6845)
  - Latino Peace Officers Association (Darrel Cortez)

Victor Garza asked the attendees if they were supportive and committed to JVSV's efforts on the DD. The response was a definite yes. The attendees hope that this effort continues and is successful at delivering what is has set out to accomplish.

Attendees were asked to provide information to SV-CAN on the programs and services they offer to help bridge the DD.