

# Partnership of local leaders produces positive results

By Sarah Esch, Public Information


What began as an opportunity for Mankato area leaders to collaborate and develop strategic priorities to enhance the community, has developed into the Cities, Colleges and University Advisory Council. Dr. Richard Davenport, president of Minnesota State University, Mankato, spearheaded the council's creation several years ago. "Our monthly meetings allow for coordinated community planning," Davenport said.

The advisory council members include representatives from Mankato Area Public Schools, the area's five colleges, Greater Mankato Growth and city administrators and mayors of Mankato and North Mankato. On a monthly rotating basis, members prepare the agenda and host the meeting.

The topics discussed are often ideas from citizens. "This advisory council provides an

opportunity for members to combine resources and achieve results to make a transformative difference in our community," said Jonathan Zierdt, president and chief executive officer of Greater Mankato Growth. Results from the advisory council include formation of the following:

- ◆ The Greater Mankato Diversity Council strengthens the Mankato area's commitment to creating an inclusive and welcoming community through diversity education.
- ◆ The High-Risk Drinking Coalition was organized in response to community concerns about high-risk drinking behaviors. The coalition is a partnership of county and city law enforcement agencies, rehabilitation agencies, post-secondary educational institutions, schools, local health agencies and businesses. The coalition's efforts are focused on helping young people develop more healthful attitudes toward alcohol and its effects.
- ◆ The Collegiate Leadership Academy of Greater Mankato is a collaboration of Greater Mankato Growth and the area's five colleges. The three-stage program helps college students strengthen their leadership skills through classes, hands-on projects and coaching by local leaders.

For more information contact the Office of the President at Minnesota State University, Mankato at 507-389-1111. 

## Members of the Greater Mankato Cities/Colleges/ University Advisory Council:

Sheri Allen, *Superintendent*  
*Mankato Area Public Schools*

John Brady, *Mayor*  
*City of Mankato*

Dan Bruss, *President*  
*Bethany Lutheran College*

Richard Davenport, *President*  
*Minnesota State University, Mankato*

Patrick Hentges, *City Manager*  
*City of Mankato*

Jack Ohle, *President*  
*Gustavus Adolphus College*

John Pappas, *Director*  
*Rasmussen College*

Wendell Sande, *City Administrator*  
*City of North Mankato*

Keith Stover, *President*  
*South Central College*

Gary Zellmer, *Mayor*  
*City of North Mankato*

Jonathan Zierdt, *President and CEO*  
*Greater Mankato Growth, Inc.*



Members of the Cities, Colleges and University Advisory Council met at Gustavus Adolphus College