



Summary of the Day

April 17th, 2015

Morning Session:

We met on April 17th at **Peninsula College in Port Angeles** to attend the live local broadcast of the 2015 Pathways to Prosperity conference which focused on enhancing our local and regional entrepreneurial ecosystem. The morning began with a live broadcast of remarks by Mr. Erik Pages, noted expert in the field of rural economic development and entrepreneurship.

Erik's first session focused on the question: "Who are the entrepreneurs?"

The key takeaways for us were:

Lots of different categories of entrepreneurs, each have different needs/goals. Diversify local economies and keep decision making at home. Focus on local wealth generation.

Following the presentation the group engaged in an activity designed to **We didn't do any of the specific exercises. We had a general facilitated discussion about identifying strengths and challenges in our community in supporting and fostering entrepreneurs.**

We learned that **we can't wait for Superman or Super-out-of-town business that will swoop in and change our town!** and as a result of the presentation and our discussion we will:
Increase networking between groups that support entrepreneurs.

Afternoon Session:

In the afternoon we had another live broadcast from Mr. Pages focusing on the **needs of local entrepreneurs and what rural leaders can do to support them.**

Some of the important things we learned from this presentation included:

We should work on setting up an informational network so that there is "No Wrong Door". Resource brokers are valuable. Access to fellow entrepreneurs is valuable.

Afterward we engaged in another exercise(s) designed to—**We broke into small groups and did the Resource Grid exercise.**

The key takeaways for us were:

We need better peer-to-peer networking opportunities, and should be drawing on existing industry clusters.

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As a result, we agreed upon these next steps to assist entrepreneurs/small businesses in our area:

1. Hold a next-steps strategy meeting with key resource providers to develop closer networks, a “No Wrong Door” approach, assist in the building of peer-to-peer networks. Develop shared materials and messages.

Please provide a quick collection of attendee data:

1. 11 Number of Entrepreneurs
2. 19 Number of professionals representing agencies
3. 2 Number of interested community members

Please send the list of attendees to Debra Hansen at debra.hansen@wsu.edu

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