

Prosper Lincoln –

Working together to lift Lincoln higher

- BY TERESA INGRAM
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Photo by Tarik- Addel-Monem
More than 1,000 people attended the Prosper Lincoln Summit at Pinnacle Bank Arena

How can we help Lincoln's children on their path to success? Or provide opportunities for people to realize career aspirations? What can we do to grow an even stronger, more innovative community? The community agenda for Prosper Lincoln addresses these questions and more.

Prosper Lincoln is bringing together every sector of our community to make our city even better. On Feb. 10, more than 1,000 people attended the Prosper Lincoln Summit at Pinnacle Bank Arena. The crowd was challenged to become involved and to make personal and organizational commitments to support three priority areas of the Prosper Lincoln community agenda:

1) Early childhood education – The goal is to help all children, regardless of their background, learn and grow during their early years. According to Lincoln school officials, 700 at-risk

children are on a waiting list to attend Lincoln Public Schools early childhood programs, and one goal is to ensure every child has a space to attend a program by 2020.

2) Employment skills – The goal is to have a workforce with the talent to meet the increasing demand from employers for stronger knowledge and capability skill sets. Enhancing job skills will result in more employment opportunities, which can help reduce poverty levels while promoting higher wages and better benefits for local workers.

3) Innovation – Lincoln strives to be a city of innovation for all sectors, from cradle to grave, which will make things better for residents throughout the community. Prosper Lincoln’s goal is to create a culture of innovation that can be passed on from one generation to the next.

These three priority areas, and their goals and objectives, were shaped from 2,105 ideas submitted by community members and then narrowed and developed into a community agenda by over 100 citizens from every corner of the city. The next step is to engage people across all sectors to implement the agenda and successfully reach the goals by 2020. With this accomplishment, all in the community will truly prosper.

“The level of community-wide input this past year has been incredible, and as a result, three priority areas have been selected for our community agenda,” said Barbara Bartle, president of the Lincoln Community Foundation. “Now it is our turn, every sector of our city – businesses, anchor institutions, nonprofit organizations, neighborhoods, government, faith communities, philanthropies and individuals – to work together and to coordinate efforts and resources. No single institution or individual can achieve the goals of the community agenda. It will take each one of us working together and supporting each other to make a difference for all of us.”

More than a dozen businesses and organizations have already committed human, financial or physical resources for Prosper Lincoln’s community agenda, including Lincoln City Libraries’ upcoming “15 Minutes a Day” reading program and LPS Superintendent Steve Joel’s challenge to end the pre-school wait list of 700 at-risk children in our community by 2020.

Take action, give time, make a donation

There are many ways to help move the community agenda forward. How will you help Lift Lincoln higher? Learn the many ways you can engage and share what you are doing at prosperlincoln.org.