



For Immediate Release

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“Santa Fe Mobilizing for Education Excellence”
Action Teams Move from Planning to Action
October 2011 Action Team Report Card Released

“Santa Fe Mobilizing for Education Excellence” Action Teams held their third full meeting on October 6, 2011 following several subcommittee meetings to refine and lay the ground work for the Action Plans to emerge. Emerging initiatives from each of the three committees are:

Committee: School & Teacher Policy

Chair: Valerie Plame Wilson

- **Consolidate community-wide data to answer the question “Why do students drop out?”**

This team will determine how Santa Fe Public School’s graduation rates can be increased by collecting/analyzing data about students dropping out and then making recommendations that could provide solutions regarding high school retention.

Academic Programs & Funding

Chair: Amy Miller

- **“Hooked on Books” community-based literacy program**
- **Expand successful academic and career pathways programs**

“Hooked on Books” provides an opportunity for younger students to discover the joy of reading and becoming life-long readers. If you can read you can succeed! Local businesses and public facilities in coordination with participating schools will sponsor bookcases with books available for children community-wide. Businesses can sponsor other activities and incentives such as prizes for program participants.

Through discovering the specific needs for expanding and strengthening already successful academic and career pathways programs in the later grades, more middle and high school students can achieve success in school and in life.

Parent & Community Engagement

Chair: Ruthanne Greeley

- **“Business Education Heroes” Campaign to support parent and community engagement in the education of our children.**

This is a county-wide campaign to engage businesses to be advocates and supporters of education excellence. Businesses leaders are encouraged to select from a menu of opportunities to support public education that may include: encouraging employees to attend parent/teacher conferences; encouraging volunteerism; holding book drives, as well as other activities.

Katherine Freeman, CEO, commented, “As the convening organization for the recent Education Summit and the teams currently developing Action Plans from the Summit recommendations, United Way of Santa Fe County is pleased to be in the role of sharing this work with the Santa Fe community. I invite readers to follow the developing plans on our website at www.uwsfc.org and to watch for our regularly released REPORT CARDS. ” The fourth and next meeting will convene November 3, 2011. “It is inspiring to witness the leadership, innovation and hard work that has emerged from different segments of our community, all with the shared goal of positively impacting education.” said Freeman.