

Evaluation

No traditional evaluation sheets will be provided because that method is meaningless for this type of learning experience. Evaluation will be based on the extent to which new ideas are introduced, facilitated, and implemented in your community as a result of the experience with the Futures Institute. A key part of this new type of evaluation is that coaching will be available to those who take any idea and seed it in their community. This will not only offer a continuation of the relationship in a mutually collaborative way, but it will give the Futures Institute a way to build a momentum for these ideas in the future. It will redefine evaluation in a connective, collaborative, mutually responsible way. A traditional type of evaluation causes division when there is disagreement. In developing "process leaders" and "capacities for transformation" there is always positive tension and it is important to make sure that diverse people learn how to bridge such "tension gaps"....that would be one of the roles of continuous coaching, to make sure that individual leadership growth continues and is reinforced in a mutually responsible way. It is one approach to get conservatives and liberals to see this type of leadership as important for the future because of this focus on different types of responsibility.

Registration

Cost for the five-session Futures Institute is \$200, which includes a continental breakfast and course materials for each session. Seminar size is limited to 30, so early registration is encouraged. To register, please fill out the form below and return NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 31, 2003, by:

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mail:

Futures Institute
OSU Extension
1512 South US Hwy 68, Suite B-100
Urbana, OH 43078

fax: 937.484.1540

e-mail: Faulkner.29@osu.edu (provide information requested below)

Champaign Transformation Project Futures Institute Registration

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

You will be invoiced upon the receipt of your registration.
Payment is due NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 21, 2003.

Creative Knowledge Economy

The Champaign Transformation Project



invites you to participate in a

Futures Institute for Community Transformation

*A Five-Seminar Series dedicated to
building community capacity for the
Creative Knowledge Economy*

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens
can change the world: Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

- Margaret Mead, 1901-1978



A joint venture of the Community Improvement Corporation of Champaign County (CIC), Ohio State University Extension (OSUE), The Center for Communities of the Future (COTF), Urbana University (UU), and the Champaign County Library (CCL)

The Champaign Transformation Project

The Champaign Transformation Project is focused on the idea of preparing Champaign County for a different kind of economy and society– one that requires continuous innovation and the ability to attract and develop creative people and ideas.

The goal of this project is to create a culture of transformation in Champaign County, where local leaders are able to respond with innovative thinking to the challenges of three existing economies that presently exist in a mix of constant churn: the last stages of an Industrial Economy, the development of a Creative Knowledge Economy, and the early signals of a Web/Networked Economy that will be the norm by 2020.

Why a Futures Institute?

Our society is increasingly fast-paced, interdependent and complex. As a result, we become frustrated when traditional ways of thinking and action no longer work. A **different kind of learning experience** is needed to prepare leaders to think differently, be able to understand the impact of future trends, and build skills of innovation for a constantly changing society.

The creation of a new concept, a **futures institute**, offers an opportunity for interested leaders to work in generative dialogue to generate new ideas and design new actions based on future trends. It also will insure that leaders are exposed to and develop skills in the new field of community transformation, a nationally known idea associated with the work of the Center for Communities of the Future.

Your participation in the **Futures Institute for Community Transformation** will help you better understand the evolving Creative Knowledge Economy and how your community should prepare and develop to be vital, sustainable and competitive in the 21st century.

Meet Your Lead Facilitator:



Rick Smyre, Center for Communities of the Future

Mr. Rick Smyre is an internationally recognized futurist specializing in building “capacities for transformation” in local communities, and is the architect of the new field of “process leadership.” He has concentrated on developing innovative concepts, methods, and techniques connected with the Communities of the Future (COTF) idea in collaboration with a self-organizing network of 1500 individuals in forty+ states and six countries.

Mr. Smyre focuses his work in several ways. He speaks internationally and has provided over 300 seminars, keynotes and retreats over the last decade to introduce these “COTF System of Community Transformation” ideas. Of greatest interest to Mr. Smyre is his work to help local communities prepare for transformational change. He does this in two ways: 1) as a strategic networker to develop new ideas such as Transformational Learning and Futures Institutes, and 2) as a “master capacity builder” to work with leaders in local communities to develop 21st century capacities to include Process Leadership skills.

The Futures Institute

Expected Outcomes:

The following are expected outcomes for all those who participate in the **Futures Institute**. Each participant will:

- Become familiar with trends and their impact on community life.
- Learn how to identify new opportunities and build parallel strategies to become successful in the Creative Knowledge Economy.
- Develop the skills of connective thinking and futures generative dialogue to be an effective part of a Creative Knowledge Economy entrepreneurial network.
- Learn how to build “capacities for transformation” for your community to prepare your region for a different kind of economy and society.
- Be exposed to the overall Communities of the Future (COTF) System of Community Transformation and start the journey as a “master capacity builder.”

21st Century Methodologies

- Those involved will self-select or be recruited specifically for their interest in new leadership concepts, methods and techniques important to rural areas.
- The concept of community transformation is the core concept of this leadership development experience. A sound understanding of the difference between reforming and transforming change will be used. The COTF System of Community Transformation offers the opportunity to provide an overall framework of ideas such as self-organizing, initial conditions, parallel processes, futures generative dialogue and connective thinking will be at the heart of the Institute and consistent with an evolving and constantly changing society.
- A multiple methodology of learning experiences will be used to move beyond traditional educational concepts both practically and symbolically; e.g. self-directed study, full group dialogue, breakout groups, self-assessments.
- A workbook will be created that explains in more depth concepts, methods and techniques, and, at the same time, organizes the material for the Institute in a way consistent with the idea of “connective thinking.”
- The use of teleconferencing and tele-centers will be demonstrated with other COTF Global Rural Network communities.
- A Game of the Future will be utilized as a way to introduce the participants to trends of the future in a fun and group oriented way.
- Several new self-assessment methods will be designed within the context of the leadership needs and within the context of rural transformation.
- Breakout groups working with community and transformative assessment issues will be connected with individuals in other areas of the country that are participants of the COTF Global Rural Network Project.
- A “connective thinking” diagram will be created that can be used in conjunction with Internet research.
- Groups will develop a framework for creating capacities to develop a “rural culture for a Creative Knowledge Economy.”
- Successive sessions will have the advantage of the learning experiences and feedback from preceding sessions. The idea of evaluation needs to be shifted from a traditional approach and a new methodology of evaluation established. In transformational work, those initially involved do not know what they need – obviating a basic premise of traditional evaluation.