

Virginia Western Community College

Roanoke Focus Group Meeting

Mr. Russ Ellis, Moderator
Ms. Kay Strickland, Recorder
Mr. Erik Williams, Recorder

Roanoke Regional Chamber Boardroom

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

SUMMARY OF EVALUATIONS

1. What idea did you hear expressed today that was the most insightful about our community's needs?

- The fact that 50.0% of the students today are dropping out of school is a major concern for our community
- VWCC could lead an effort to improve the performance of Roanoke City Schools and generally fortify itself as an economic and regional leader

2. What would you like to see happen to follow up on today's conversation?

- More programs should be developed to target the children who are dropouts as well as those older teens and young adults who eventually acquire their GEDs
- Set up a strong partnership between education, business and the community at large

3. Would you recommend any changes to the location or to the way we conducted this discussion?

- It would have been helpful to have a brief introduction of each individual who participated in the session; at least their names and companies or organizations that they represented would have helped to better understand the context in which their comments were made
- Very effective – well done

4. Are there any ideas you want to share with the College that you did not get a chance to express in the group? If so, please note them here, using the back of this page as needed.

- Diversity is a topic that may need further attention; not knowing student body statistics, diversity may already be visible at VWCC; looking at the participants in this meeting, it did not appear that a diverse population was represented
- Comments were generally based on an individual's environment and their personal knowledge; possibly include representatives from various organizations or community sectors in future meetings