

EDUCC – Statement of Partnership Philosophy

EDUCC Mission Statement

The Economic Development University Community Committee (EDUCC) provides a forum for the coordination of university, college, public and private sector partners in economic development efforts designed to improve living standards for the community at large.

Substance of the EDUCC Partnership

As related in the EDUCC Mission Statement, the Committee provides a forum for the public policy conversation regarding community economic development. Issues regarding the community's economic development do not lie within the purview of one particular entity involved in the partnership. Instead, the EDUCC serves as a publicly oriented institution that hosts the exchange of ideas and the formulation of joint action strategies designed to achieve mutually shared community economic development objectives.

Current EDUCC partners include those holding voting and ex-officio membership status including the City of Gainesville, University of Florida, Santa Fe Community College, Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce, Alachua County and the Alachua County School Board.

It is understood that economic development consists of a very broad and diverse set of issues from Workforce Development to the existing Regulatory Environment; from the Cultural and Artistic Offerings of the community to the ability to Capture Innovation; from Small Business Development and Entrepreneurship to Responsible Stewardship of the Community's Natural Resources and Quality of Life.

Although EDUCC partners may hold divergent views on these varied concerns, what links the partners is a mutual interest in seeking jointly devised solutions to the wide array of community economic development challenges/opportunities confronting this community.

In an effort to mutually tackle existing and future community economic development challenges and opportunities, EDUCC partners pledge to:

- Routinely participate in the EDUCC forum
- Institutionalize and internalize agreed upon community economic development initiatives flowing from the EDUCC
- Promote EDUCC partner staff exchanges to the greatest extent possible in order to build effective working relationships important for building future success
- Focus on timely implementation of those activities/projects considered by the Committee
- Emphasize an openness to various viewpoints and keeping the eyes of the Committee's "prize" or mission

Mechanics of the EDUCC Partnership

The EDUCC can only directly affect City public policy as the Committee provides a direct channel to the City Commission. The actions of EDUCC partners are really driven indirectly through their internal existing channels of authority.

The EDUCC has been in effect for approximately two years and has generally been driven by City of Gainesville community economic development priorities. In the future, the following suggestions should be considered by the Committee regarding the mechanics of how this partnership effort functions in practice:

- The EDUCC shall convene quarterly at a rotating partner suggested meeting place; this quarterly meeting will replace the respective monthly meeting.
- Subjects to be discussed at EDUCC quarterly meetings shall consist of a topic of interest suggested by the hosting EDUCC partner; action items shall be suggested by the hosting EDUCC partner for consideration by other partners.
- Routine monthly EDUCC meetings will be devoted primarily to routine Committee business items.
- EDUCC shall serve as a clearinghouse of information regarding future development of the Innovative Economy.