

March 1, 2018

I am recommending this new name:

The Education, Workforce Development, and Worker Empowerment Task Force.

From the perspective of the Southeast Working-Class Task Force, the term “Workforce Development” is defined through the lens of employers. Now our task force name can represent the interests of both the employer and the employee.

“The lion’s story will never be known as long as the hunter is the one to tell it.”

-- African proverb

I have also made recommendations as to how to include the perspectives of employees by simply broadening our intentionality via changing the wording in the Work Plan. If and when the group wants to, we can talk about ways to include the viewpoints of the working class and local labor organizations.

These ideas/recommendations are discussed here <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Propoals-for-2016-Southside-Quality-of-Life-Plan.pdf>

- Challenge: Diversity/Inclusion, Inequality/Equity, Sustainability p. 1
- Challenge: A Business/Workforce Development Task Force representing perspectives and interests of both employers and workers p. 3

More detailed information is proposed here:

- vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Proposed-actions-and-changes-for-SSQoL-Plan.pdf
- vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Suggestions-to-complement-and-supplement-the-Education-and-Workforce-Plan.pdf

Why does our task force need to make these changes?

1. *Being inclusive* First of all, if I am not mistaken, the SSQLP requires inclusiveness (race, gender, culture, class, religion, age, ability, politics, etc.). The initial plan gave us some data (i.e., our area is 13.7% Latin@ and 11.3% Black; 1,205 families live in poverty). Having our intentionality via rewording and actions reflecting this data will help include multiple perspectives/responsibilities.
 - Question: How can SSQLP be socially responsible in that what being socially responsible looks like is also defined by those whose circumstance require our SSQLP to be socially responsible?
2. *Fostering community health* We have to appreciate we are all in this together; improving the quality of life for the under-resourced in the SSQLP area improves the quality of life for each area person.
 - Inequality makes us sick www.youtube.com/watch?v=uE7v5cHIHDQ
 - Racism makes us sick*
 - theconversation.com/does-racism-make-us-sick-63641
 - www.ted.com/talks/david_r_williams_how_racism_makes_us_sick
 - Living in disadvantaged neighborhoods is bad for our health www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzafgHG7EFE
3. *Embracing collaboration* We must enable/support a coalition of employers, employees, and greater southeast Indy residents. Our group has to work with the SEW-CTF, workers/labor organizations, and business leaders to confront and unpack the past/future of U.S. labor. SEW-CTF believes to affect real and sustainable change, the workers must drive this transformation.
 - See the panel and author Susan Marquis discuss her book, *I am not a tractor*.
 - <https://www.c-span.org/video/?440654-1/i-tractor>

“Cross the river together so the crocodiles won’t eat you.”

-- Madagascar proverb

4. *Moving the debate forward* The above recommendations for changes in intentionality via changes in wording of our name and Work Plan must be debated. Both Michelle and Tom (Orr) have brought up the issues around how (if any) changes can be made “official.”

As you know, SEND has its Congress that meets 3-4 times a year. It is during a Congress that new ideas/task forces are presented and old ideas/task forces are critiqued. Ideas that didn't work are removed and/or new suggested ideas are added or not. It's inevitable that SSQLP will have a Congress where these recommendations can be unpacked and debated, moved on for further review or an up or down vote.

This does not stop us from having dialogues and making “unofficial” re-wordings, manifesting an intentionality showing our marginalized residents we represent their interests and self-determination.

John Harris Loflin
Chair
Southeast Working-Class Task Force

*We have to confront and discredit the tradition of racism on our Southside, or we will be seen by others around the city as backward, in denial about the factual history which substantiates this legacy.

- See Distribution of Klan strength, 1923 map of Indianapolis
 - vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Distribution-of-Klan-strength-in-Indianapolis-in-1923.pdf
- Read comments on our south side's legacy of racism by UIndy's Dr. Michael Cartwright
 - <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Rich-local-Southside-Indy-heritage-lives-on-in-forgotten-areas.pdf>
- Even today, Indianapolis is one of the 21 most segregated US cities. Note the low percentage of African Americans south of Washington St. on the map.
 - www.businessinsider.com/most-segregated-cities-census-maps-2013-4
 - www.flickr.com/photos/walkingsf/5560477952/in/album-72157626354149574/