

Ethical Citizens for Minnesota's Future

December 1, 2009 Forum

Oak Ridge Hotel & Conference Center, Chaska, MN

A statewide forum was held December 1, 2009 in Chaska where more than 45 key educational leaders met to address "Ethical Citizens for Minnesota's Future." From those stakeholders, 36 completed response cards to share their experience and reflections on the day's forum. Forty-four percent felt the day exceeded their expectations and 53% found the day met their expectations.

We asked attendees to share a "Golden Nugget" from the days' experience - one thing that made their day worthwhile. Below are their responses:

Golden Nuggets

- Importance of ethical citizenship
- The importance of finding safe middle ground so that we all - liberals and conservatives - can intelligently address this critical issue.
- Making connections with so many groups/people with same shared commitment
- Honesty = successful
- The focus and buying in by participants
- The process that took it from idealistic to action
- Ended up with a product, not just "talk." Love the data. Great Facilitation. Great spot -food-mix of participants.
- Ubuntu. I am because we are. We're on the right track (provided by 8 people)
- Meeting passionate citizens
- Created momentum for ongoing discussion
- Rallied again the need to address critical issue of ethical behavior
- The conversation has begun -- what defines personal success?
- Seeing a large group who want to move this forward
- B is for balance
- Time to think
- Possibilities to actually move this forward
- Meeting a new contact with similar vision for the school district I work in.
- Roundtable activity & cross dialogue
- Hank Shea's comments
- We need a new model in education where local schools are responsible for their "efficacy" and have the authority to inspire their school's performance
- Hearing common concerns from diverse stakeholder
- Contacts with like-minded people
- Ubuntu and our pre-lunch reflection questions
- Hearing the many great ideas
- A topic was addressed that is lacking in schools. I was thrilled to help start this process.
- The tie-in to ethical citizens (or not!) and societal and business breakdowns
- Connecting with people! Great Group!

We also asked attendees to share their personal "Next Steps" with us. Here are some of their comments:

Next Steps

- Promote ethics education
- Exchange with students from Orono. Connect with Blake. Contact legislator

- Contact boy scouts, colleges and high schools with whom I have worked and others to expand our group
- Getting involved more
- Bring info (including broad base of stakeholders) to MDE personnel
- Share with local leaders
- I believe I will inform my congressman about this event
- Talk about the key messages to anybody who will listen and to get Hank's data and share with our district stakeholder group.
- Talk to my colleagues. Bev Scalze
- Contact principal and superintendent. Transition info to school learning community
- Getting the word out
- Think about what I can do -- individually and with others, locally and globally – to facilitate more intrinsic reflective self reflection
- Talk to my principal to implement idea
- Keep it on my agenda for training administration
- Talk to other CL's at MPS
- To keep involving rotary
- Implement within our program
- We have a meeting tomorrow on our k-12 serving learning plan
- Contact rotary to get more involvement
- Didn't get what the purpose was . . . Sorry . . .
- Meet with Joe Cavanaugh. Write character education course proposal
- Stay engaged in the process
- Using data from the Josephson study
- Discuss with teacher education facility, encourage students to consider dissertation in this area, build more character education in our youth program
- Review and reflect upon my district's current manner of addressing character education
- Share key messages with all staff and students
- Bringing more ethics to school
- Reflect and bring ideas to both students and staff at my district
- Talk to students at Hermantown
- Checking the web sites on the background information page
- Carry this message to all that I am involved with - district, MN PTA, etc.
- Reach out to my stakeholder groups - have conversation/debrief, create buy-in