

TRI-COUNTY REGION UPDATE

SET updates

February 2016

Where we Started

The Tri-County SET planning team kicked off the SET program in Wishek on September 18 with the Community Forum process. Approximately 40 participants were in attendance. It was a great gathering of a diverse group of citizens. They learned about some of the demographic trends in the region as well as the opportunity to learn about the SET program in greater detail.

Following lunch the group participated in the Civic Forum process. Some of the results can be found below. It was a fruitful exercise where people could express their opinions and network with their regional neighbors.

Round 1- Positive features

- Pride of Communities (8)
 - Cleanliness
 - Beauty
 - People
- Tourism Growth (8)
- Younger families moving here
- Community events (0)
- Recreational opportunities (7)

Round 2 - Major challenges

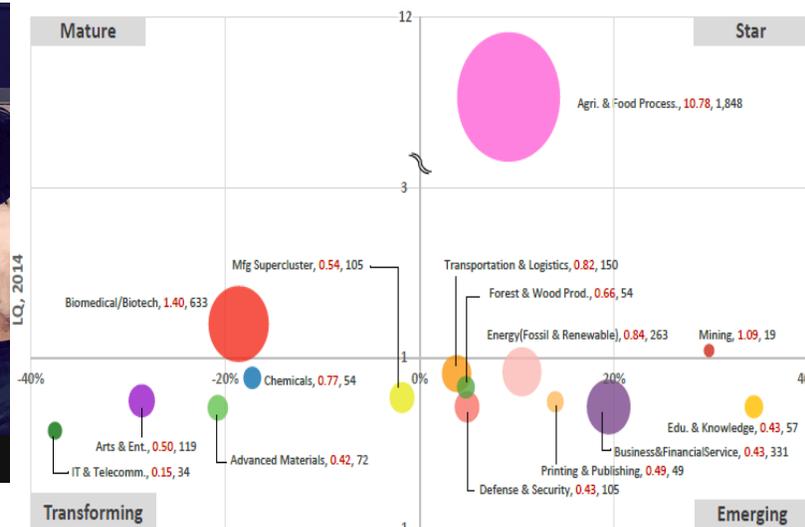
- Staffing (13)
 - Shortage of nurses/employees
 - Keep restaurants open
 - Skilled
- Keep up with infrastructure (6)
 - Needs (sewer, water, roads)
- Resistance to change (7)
- Housing (5)
- Attracting young families (3)

“The Civic forum went much better than I expected. The group was so engaged and everyone contributed to the process. I Cant remember ever having so many people from across the region in one room to work together for a common cause..”
Angie Benz, Hazelton City Auditor and SET participant..”



Completing Cluster support worksheet

Industry cluster bubble chart



Sectors Determined...

- Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, & Visitor Industry
- Biomedical/Biotechnology
- Business & Financial

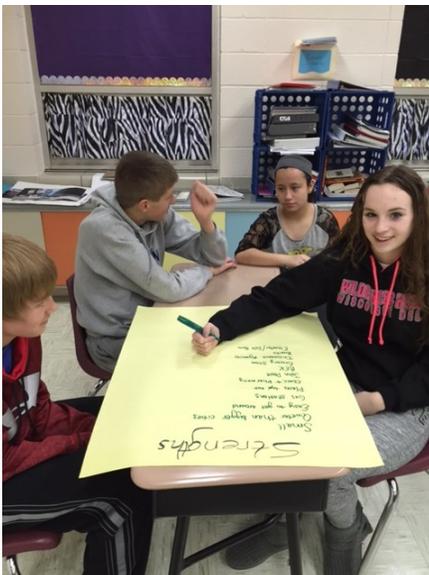
Groups were formed around business clusters and everyone went to work on the cluster support worksheets



Civic Forum held at the Napoleon School

“What surprised me was that we found so many strengths in our community, For me, small towns aren’t the best but after we pointed out a lot of strengths it changed my view” Napoleon 12th grader

“There are some things we can get to work on that we can actually change. We can talk to the school board about changes..” Napoleon 11th grader



Projects they want to work on:

- Lights by the pool
- New running track
- More ITV classes
- A place to have a movie night