



**Policy and Technical Committees**  
**Minutes from eBlack Champaign-Urbana Part II – Economic Development Symposium**

Saturday January 8, 2011 - 9:00 AM to Noon  
Champaign Public Library – 200 W. Green Street, Champaign, IL

**UC2B Policy Board Members Present** (at one time or another)

Abdul Alkalimat  
Mike Smeltzer  
Brandon Bowersox  
Fred Halenar  
Richard Schnuer

**UC2B Technical Committee Members present** (at one time or another)

Fred Halenar  
Connie Dillard  
Chris Hamb

Approximately 100 attendees throughout the morning.

Meeting began at 9:17 AM

**Activities:**

- Part I – Economic Development Concepts & Realities
  - Mr. Noah Lenstra introduced the day’s activities and read the “Manifesto 2011”. The Manifesto solicited some questions.
  - Panel Discussion – Economic Development Concepts & Realities: Panel was moderated by John Kersh. Panelist included Mr. Minor Jackson (Executive Director Workforce Development Parkland College), Mr. Craig Rost (Deputy City Manager for Economic Development, City of Champaign), Mr. Tom Carrino (Economic Development Manager, City of Urbana), and Mr. Otis Noble III (Office of Equal Opportunity in Access for the University of Illinois).
    - ✓ Each panelist provided an overview of how our community fosters community development
    - ✓ Growth is the bottom line
    - ✓ Continuous process that needs to be managed
    - ✓ Technology is just part of the bigger puzzle
  - Q & A session:

- ✓ What programs do the cities employ
- ✓ How will fiber infrastructure help economic development and growth
- ✓ What opportunities are there?
  - Construction trades programs
  - How to start a business
  - Affirmative Action programs
  - Principles of Energy and Building Science
- Parkland College: Greener Jobs grant with workshops including home insulation, workforce readiness, and wind turbines
- Part II – Breakout Sessions – 3 groups address the following issues:
  - Youth Employment
  - Religious Institutions
  - Jobs
- Part III – Next Steps, with opening remarks provided by Abdul Alkalimat. Three Ministers provided the following comments:
  - They want to be involved in the process from the beginning
  - They want to be part of the technological change (for best interest in its use)
  - Indicated that ministerial efforts change over time
  - They want to be ready
  - Churches are good neighborhood representatives
  - Will send an appeal letter to the UC2B Policy Committee
- Other next steps:
  - There will be another meeting held in March
  - Providing a free computer literacy course at Parkland
  - Create interest and desire in the technology
  - Creating and keeping jobs local

Event concluded at 12:25 PM

Handouts Include:

Manifesto 2011

Job Application: Technology and Champaign-Urbana

Agenda (New Jobs and Careers)

Free Computer Literacy Classes (flyer)

Difference Makers 2010 (Graduate School of Library and Information Science)