



A Private-Public Partnership Serving Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties  
222 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007-4628

**Workforce Development Board Meeting Notes**

**November 6, 2008**

The Kalamazoo-St. Joseph Workforce Development Board met at 7:30 a.m. at the Kalamazoo Radisson Hotel, 100 West Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

**Members Present:** Omar Alston (Alternate DOC), Rick Anderson (Labor), Robin Baker (At-Large), Dennis Berkebile (PS), Thom Brennan (PS), Susan Einspahr (PS), Bill Farmer (Labor), Margaret Gagen (CBO), Lisa Godfrey (PS), Joe Herdus (PS), Ellen Kisinger-Rothi (CBO), Jerry Love (PS), Kim Luther (DOC), Linda Marcon (PS), Marilyn Potgiesser (PS), Casey Putnam (Educ), Anne Sampair (PS), Steward Sandstrom (PS), Robert Smith (MRS), Jack Urban (At-Large), Barry Visel (PS)

**Members Absent:** David Allen (PS), Diane Donovan (PS), Don Edgerly (PS), Jim Harrington (Educ), Erv Heidbrink (Labor), Chris Kadulski (DHS), Cathi Knapp (Econ Dev), Mary Oudsema (PS)

**MW Staff Present:** Kathy Olsen, Kara Stewart, Suprotik Stotz-Ghosh, Bob Straits

**Other WDB Guests Present:** John Davis (FIA), Beverly McCall (FIA)

The Leadership Kalamazoo Breakfast was organized by Leadership Kalamazoo, a program of the Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce. The event was supported by the Kalamazoo Community Foundation and the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation. Other event sponsors includes Michigan Works!, State Farm Insurance and the Kalamazoo Gazette. In total, approximately 300 individuals from the community were in attendance.

**WELCOME**

The event commenced with a welcome and opening remarks given by Sheri Welsh, Chair of Leadership Kalamazoo Advisory Council.

**PROGRAM**

Bill Strickland, MacArthur genius and author of “Make the Impossible Possible,” was the keynote speaker for the event. He gave a slide show presentation on the “Art of Leadership.” Mr. Strickland began by telling his personal story as to how a public school art teacher became his mentor and saved him from going in the wrong direction. Through his presentation he showed how he was able to transform an economically impoverished community in the city of Pittsburgh by following his belief that all human beings are good and that “environment drives behavior.” Strickland told how his Manchester Bidwell Corporation, which started in 1968 as a pottery class, evolved into a 62,000 square foot arts and training center. The presentation included multiple examples of creative solutions to help companies through innovative training programs that led to jobs for unemployed community members.

**CLOSING REMARKS**

Closing remarks were given by Dan Dunn, Chair of Leadership Kalamazoo Member Services Committee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The event adjourned at approximately 9:30 a.m.

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Robert Straits Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Love Date