

## **Interview with Alan Panek and Steve Lewallen, Small Business Development Cluster co-chairs**

### **Q. Why would you want to be a part of the small business development cluster?**

The reason we are giving our time, energy, and expertise is because of the pride we feel in our community, and we want to see our community and the surrounding area grow. Business people and residents can bring their energy into the goals that need to be reached. You need a broad base of people to improve our area. Every cluster does a good job of attracting people that are working, retired, or at home, and can start working at something that adds more meaning to their lives. Measurable results help to define that meaning and that is what cluster development is all about.

### **Q. Why do we see this cluster working so well?**

A. We don't see anyone that is trying to take control or take over. Everyone is involved and everyone takes responsibility and an equal work load. So many committees act from one person delegating everything. This cluster generates ideas from all over, and we see this "equal participation" as a true benefit of how clusters operate.

### **Q. What other skills do you require to meet your goals as a cluster?**

A. As we move forward with the entrepreneurial club, we hope we infuse ourselves with the spirit of our new members, and bring as many new ideas and businesses as possible to the table. There's no limit. No matter what people do in their professional or personal lives, they have something to offer. We're committed, and we're succeeding in our work on the Boot Camps, the entrepreneurial club, and other activities that are growing new businesses and adding vitality and value to the community.

### **Q. How are ideas created, planned and implemented?**

A. As we start our meetings, we go around the room, and members get a chance to give opinions about different topics; this generates more ideas. The idea generation out of our cluster seems limitless. The way we meet our objectives is by delegating the goals to ourselves. We all commit to the tasks and get our work done.