

Dreamcatcher

Official Weekly Newsletter for the 2005 El Paso Regional Economic Summit

July 29, 2005



**AUGUST 17-18, 2005
8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M.
JUDSON F. WILLIAMS CONVENTION CENTER**

We're almost there! This is the time for the entire region, at all levels and from all perspectives, to coalesce for the advancement of this global metropolitan region. In just about two weeks, we all will have the rare opportunity to discuss issues as an entire community.

This issue will feature another two clusters—the Military and Next Generation Economy components of the 2005 El Paso Regional Economic Summit. Bob Cook from the El Paso Regional Economic Development Corporation will touch on the Military issue whereas Larry Peterson from Management, Technical and Marketing Services will provide an insight regarding the Next Generation Economy section of the Summit. Both will briefly forecast the direction how these two regional issues will be presented.



***Bob Cook
President***

***El Paso Regional Economic Development Corporation
2005 El Paso Regional Economic Summit
Military Subcommittee Chair***

Military Mini-Seminar

Purpose for Addressing "Military" Issues

The regional military complex comprised of Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range, and Holloman Air Force Base exerts an annual economic impact on the region in excess of \$ 2 billion. In addition, there are almost 150,000 persons in our region that are affiliated with the military as active duty personnel and their families, Department of Defense civilians, and military retirees and their families.

Given that our nation is underway with Base Realignment and Closure 2005 and the Overseas Re-basing Initiative, no other economic sector has the potential to exert a more immediate or profound additional impact on the regional economy. This reality presents tremendous potential opportunity and challenges for El Paso and its citizens. Mayor Cook's administration must develop and pursue a clear strategy as to how City government will address both. The mayor's economic summit will help establish a solid foundation for the development of this strategy.

Military Mini-Seminar

This 3-hour seminar will be set into three 45-minute sessions, a short break, and then a wrap-up session to collect any final comments, ideas, and questions.

During each 45-minute session, a guest speaker will provide information regarding their specific area of expertise and then open the floor for questions and comments from the audience. Personnel will be on-hand to facilitate this questions and answers segment.

- Understanding the BRAC Recommendations and Process

Colonel Dave Armour, US Army Retired, Cypress International. COL Armour is a consultant with Cypress International, a Washington, DC-based business development consulting firm that specializes in military and defense. COL Armour is the firm's expert on BRAC and the federal defense budget.

During this session, attendees can expect a basic understanding of the BRAC process, the recommendations (as of 17 August) and their potential impact on our community. Also, a broad insight into El Paso's present and future economic development opportunities as they relate to the military will be provided.

- Overview of the Fort Bliss Installation Master Plan

COL Heidi Brown, Fort Bliss Chief of Staff.

The Fort Bliss presentation will provide attendees a basic overview of the Fort Bliss vision and mission, strategic initiatives, and the installation master plan.

- Community Opportunities

Presenters:

Richard Dayoub, President, El Paso Greater Chamber of Commerce

Gus Rodriguez, Jr; Vice President of Beacon Technologies and the Chairman of the Greater El Paso Chamber's Armed Forces Committee.

Ms. Pat Villalobos, President of Barnhart-Taylor Company, and Chairwoman of the Business Advocacy and Research Division of the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

The community has been busy preparing for the possible arrival of additional Soldiers to Fort Bliss and the El Paso community. During this session, attendees will learn about the numerous initiatives in place to welcome Soldiers to the area and how they can participate. Plus, information will be provided as to how local businesses can avail themselves of economic opportunities associated with Fort Bliss.

Deliverables

At the conclusion of the Economic Summit, the military committee will provide the following deliverables to Mayor Cook for consideration, advisement, and/or action.

- A compendium of issues and concerns raised by summit attendees as they relate to implementation of the BRAC recommendations for El Paso and Fort Bliss.
- A report on insights gathered from summit attendees that can be used by the Mayor's military cabinet to develop a strategy and plan in support of Fort Bliss.
- A report on insights gathered from summit attendees relative to potential private economic development opportunities in relationship to current and future missions at Fort Bliss.
- If possible, a report on specific recommendations for the mayor and his military cabinet to consider for implementation over the next four years.

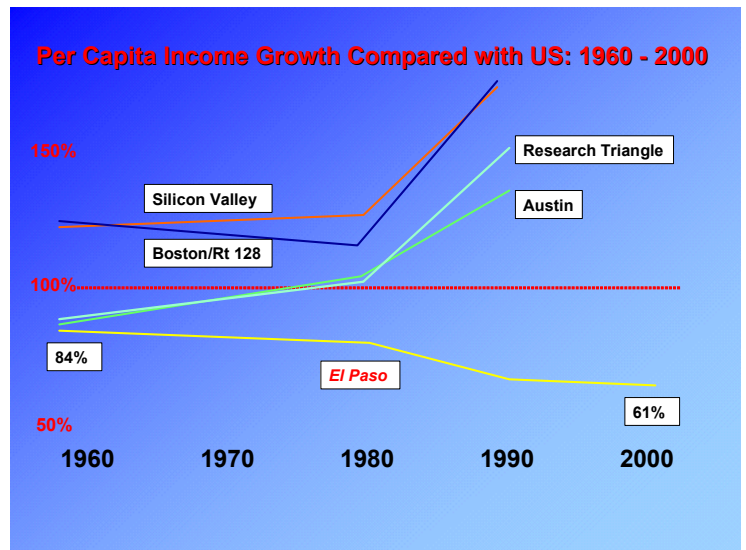


Larry Peterson
President
Management, Technical and Marketing Services
2005 El Paso Regional Economic Summit
Next Generation Economy Chair

The NexGen Economy

Emerging Initiatives

In the 1930's, El Paso was one of the wealthiest cities in the Southwest, twice the size of Phoenix, with incomes higher than the national average. Over the past 40 years in particular, El Paso's decline in per capita income has accelerated, while that of many other US communities have rapidly increased, creating high-paying job opportunities, enhanced tax base, and greater diversity in quality-of-life.



What must El Paso do differently to reverse this decline, and move systematically toward local and regional "wealth creation?" What has El Paso already begun doing?

These efforts are the subject of the "NexGen Economy" segment of the El Paso Regional Economic Summit.

As the US moves rapidly toward an “Innovation Economy,” only 3% of all US companies produce the vast majority of job growth each year (about 70%) through their own fast growth. **High Performance Communities** focus developing on the “eco-system” to produce such companies by developing *talent, technology and capital*.

The **NexGen Economy** segment of the Economic Summit will review “**Best Practices” of High Performance Communities**, highlight the Paso del Norte region’s **Assets and Opportunities**, discuss strategies for integration with **Federal and State Initiatives**, and summarize **Goals and Emerging Initiatives**.

Featured Speaker Pike Powers of Fulbright & Jaworski, widely regarded as one of the chief architects of the “Austin Model” will discuss his experience in successful local and state initiatives.

Discussion of **Assets and Opportunities** will highlight:

- \$4.5 billion annual research expenditures in the region (a figure nearly twice the total amount of federal research funding to all of Texas)
- The small but burgeoning supply of equity capital assets (Angel investor networks and venture capital firms)
- FUMEC Initiatives, including the Bi-National Sustainability Lab and the PDN MEMS (Paso del Norte Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems) Cluster
- El Paso’s Entrepreneurial history, producing four F1000 company, and numerous other large, successful companies
- Current Workforce and K-12 Education Initiatives in support of the NexGen Economy
- Examples of El Paso Opportunities, such as Border Security Technology and the emerging industry of Intelligent Software Agent (ISA) Technology. ISA technology is predicted to transform many major markets and critical applications.
- The Role of Non-Profits in the NexGen Economy.

The NexGen segment will also highlight resources available at the state and federal levels, and emphasize effective integration with **State and Federal Initiatives**, including EDA programs and the “Strengthening America’s Communities Initiative” (SACI), as well as the new Texas Emerging Technology Fund. El Paso’s plan for a Regional Center of Innovation and Commercialization (RCIC) will be presented.

A summary of **Goals and Emerging Initiatives** in developing El Paso’s landscape of *talent, technology and capital* will be developed interactively with the audience.



Participate In Your Future.

2005 EL PASO REGIONAL ECONOMIC SUMMIT

August 17 & 18 • 8am - 12pm

CONVENTION CENTER • 541-4304

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