

## Great Game Huddle Notes

February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Angie Crews opened the Huddle this morning, asking the group to share about their activities over the long weekend we enjoyed because of the holiday for President Lincoln's birthday.

Mailyn Knight took over from there and spoke to us about Greene County LEAD.

LEAD stands for Leading Education About Diversity, and the group was formed at Greene County in August, 2016. Many similar entities, such as City Utilities and Springfield Public Schools, have been educating their staff about diversity for a long time. Meetings of the LEAD group occur quarterly, and we have had 2 forums since August. During the first meeting, the county welcomed speaker Wes Pratt of Missouri State University. In our second gathering, we met the committee members of LEAD.

What is diversity? ANY dimension that can be used to differentiate groups and people from one another. Inclusion is the ACTION of valuing all individuals and removing barriers to give equal access to opportunities.

The workforce of our current population in the United States is changing. The population of Millennials, the generation born between 1977 and 1995, has now surpassed the number of Baby Boomers at an astounding count of 75+ million. Generation Z is the term for those born in the generation following the Millennials. Census statistics show that 50% of the Generation Z population is white, while the other 50% is made up of other ethnicities. Millennials, in particular, want to enjoy their work and work environment. Salary and benefits are no longer of the utmost importance to them, and as we transition to a younger workforce, it is imperative that hiring groups provide a diverse and accepting environment.

"If you do not intentionally include, you unintentionally exclude."

Join us next week as the Huddle group travels to the newly remodeled office of the Greene County Prosecuting Attorney at Cox North Tower. Our Prosecuting Attorney, Dan Patterson, will be speaking.