Enabling the Network Commons

guifi Net's Singular Achievement
and a Kansas City Jazz Postscript

What "Counts?' Money - Prestige - Rank in Society? Or Inspring the Kids?

Kauffman's View of Entrepreneurship compared to MIT's View and William Well's aSTEAM Village

Sometimes strange and unexpected things happen. On January 20 I thought that I was just about completely through with Kansas City but then I got a phone call from William Wells of the aSTEAM Village who had been reading the *COOK Report* I published on December 1 and who said that he wanted to tell me that he thought that he was misrepresented in one of my interviews and that I had missed some important parts of the Kansas City story. We started talking intensively and I've come to agree with a lot of what he had to say. As a result I will add an "extra as we are going press" kind of chapter because it seems to me that he has an important and unique point of view that I have never encountered in Kansas City up to this point in time. Now the other unanticipated event happened 24 hours later and that was the FCC approval of Anita Dixon's low-power FM radio station license application.

In her interview with me just concluded Anita makes it absolutely clear that she calls life as she sees it. She is not a "consensus builder" and does not bow down to any power structure. During the past week, I have now taken a much closer look at Kansas City with extensive conversations with William Wells and many others. My opinion is unchanged. There are many "wizards" in Kansas City. But the wizard-in-chief behind the throne of power in Kansas City is the Kauffman Foundation. With Kauffman in the background, Kansas City, hypes its connection with Google Fiber and markets itself as a "smart city," friendly to innovation and entrepreneurship. It is doing so in the context of the maneuverings of the Social Media Club that I pointed out in my previous issue. In turn these maneuverings are going on in the context set by the Kauffman foundation that invests about $20 million a year in grants, most of which are designed to support "entrepreneurship."

What I had learned about Kauffman so far, indicated to me that it generally supported the status quo. But finally I took a look at the website in order to find out what this Midwestern promoter of entrepreneurship thought it was all about. I found a 3 1/2 minute video that I will now summarize. To me this video says in effect *you have your station in life and we will work with you if you become a believer to help you gain a secure place in Kansas City conservatism.*

I imagine by now it should be clear to my readers that their definition of conservatism is not anything that I share. The message seems to me, among other things, don't rock the boat. Let's take a quick look at what Dane Stangler their policy director thinks entrepreneurship is all about.

" From YouTube we have Kauffman Sketchbook 27

Dane Stangler, Vice President of Research & Policy at the Kauffman Foundation, discusses four persistent myths about entrepreneurship. Comments are disabled for this video." **Editor's Note** What follows are screenshots I have captured identified for the most part with his narrative but also commented upon with my own opinions.

Voice over one of the great things about entrepreneurship but also one of the most frustrating things from the research perspective is that it touches a wide variety of disciplines
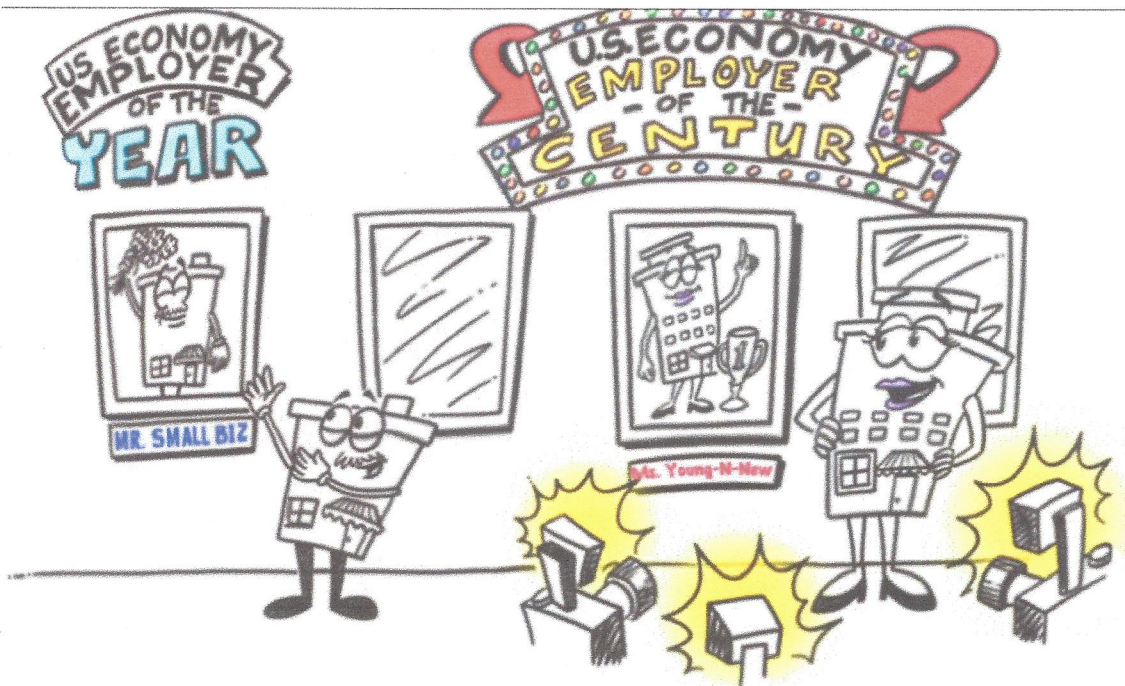

COOK Report: Here with a big splat, he cuts the spider of complexity down to size.

Voiceover: the nature and purpose of our research is to step back and remove ourselves from the day-to-day biases. However no matter what you do and no matter how many well-documented points you have …

No matter how sound your research study, the natural response is always "I had an experience doing this and my experience contradicts that and so your research is wrong." We are always going to base things on our personal experience and that's where you got get a lot of myths and disinformation and bias.

COOK Report: The man in the T-shirt on the left asking the researcher wearing the tie on the right while over his shoulder the Fox in the tree laughs at him .... is that man Afro-American? Nah....
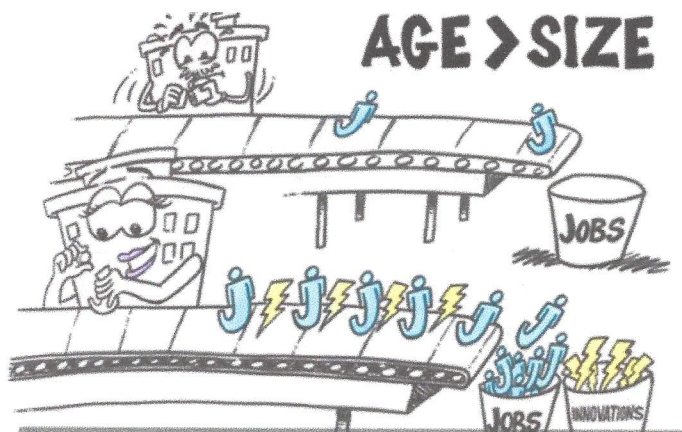

Voiceover: New businesses and young businesses are actually more economically important than small businesses.

COOK Report: What is the message here? small business as an antiquated old Codger while the Kauffman preferred approach "Ms. young and new" is young and female.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEBUNKERS

Voiceover: there are several areas in which I think our research and the research of those whom we fund has succeeded, if not in disproving, at least in pushing back against conventional wisdom about what turns out to be myths.

COOK Report: Note the paternalistic expression of the three researchers.
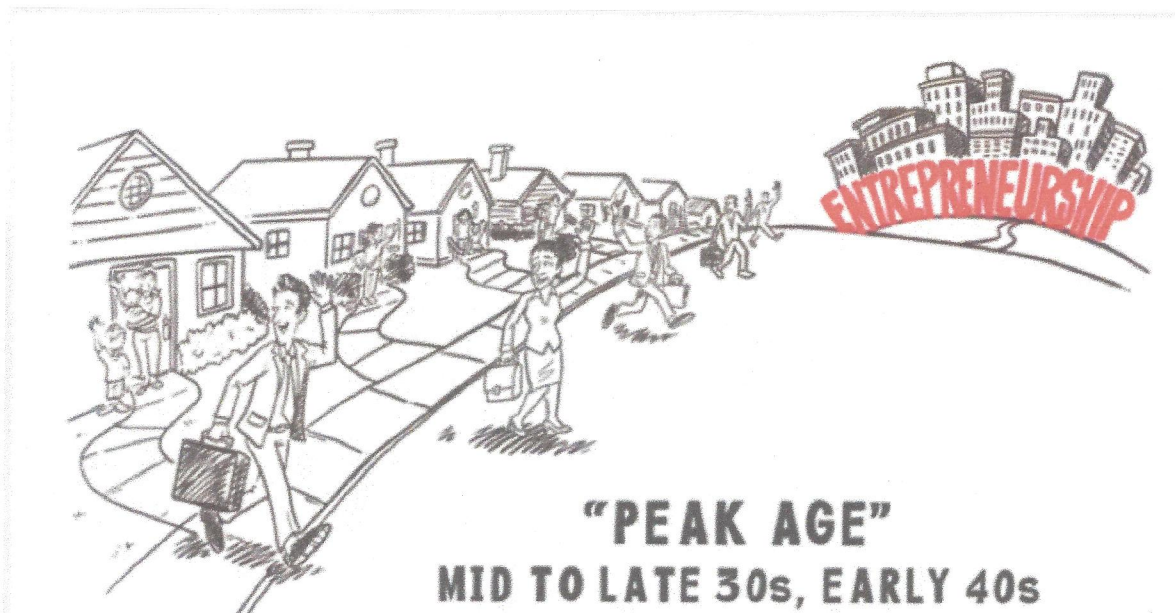
AGE › SIZE

JOBS

JOBS **INNOVATIONS**

It is new and young companies that create most jobs and innovations not necessarily small companies.

COOK Report: Why is the old Codger shown in the background sweating in desperation?

Voiceover: Multiple studies have gone against the myth that first and foremost the most important entrepreneurs are those footloose and fancy 23-year-olds that produce tech startups in their bedroom or in coffee shops
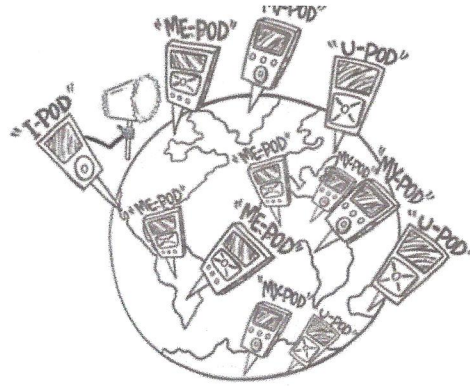

Voiceover: You still see the popular stereotypes magazine covers television about young entrepreneurs; they do exist. But by and large it's clear that the peak age for starting companies is between the mid to late -30s and early 40s.

"PEAK AGE"
MID TO LATE 30s, EARLY 40s

COOK Report comment: observe the happy suburban dwellers leaving their homes for the daily mechanized commute to the emerald city of entrepreneurship just down the interstate. Why does the man on the left remind me of Dagwood with Blondie in the doorway?

Voiceover: A third myth is the geography of entrepreneurship. Silicon Valley is a very unique place and is never going to be replicated by other places. So we all need to stop trying to be Silicon "fill in the blank" and that's not just in the US but everywhere around the world

Voiceover: Or most recent one that we have been myth busting is about the role of incubators most research shows that incubators are not effective at all for actually producing companies.

There is a lot of money at stake and there are few friends to make by going out and saying that's not going to work and this puts the onus on us to have a constructive alternative.

So this is what we spent a lot of our time doing not only trying to harvest the research on the myths but to develop research on the alternatives. So much for the Kaufman approach which talks down to its subjects in the most paternalistic way. "We know how. You are incapable of doing it on your own. Listen up! Heres what works!" As we shall see, MIT's Views are very very different and likely to be more warmly received .

To Return Back to William Wells

He has taken a journey that began with technology and telecommunications and an effort at a wireless startup in the River District of Kansas City in 2001. He lead his company Apollo Broadband Inc for a decade in bringing fixed wireless broadband to commercial companies like JE Dunn, Kansas City's largest construction company, and their subcontractors in the Kansas City downtown revitalization effort as well as the build out of the H&R Block world headquarters, the Power & Light District, the City of Kansas City, Missouri and the local police department. It worked for quite a few years until finally the inability to raise the capital needed to hire a workforce and extend the reach of the network as well as health problems led him to the next chapter in his life. [**Editor's comment**: Could it be that by 2008 no savvy banker in the home state of Southwestern Bell AKA ATT would in view of the stance of the FCC be foolish enough to lend money to a competitor?] As the *Kansas City Business Journal* put it in a 2002 article: Over at Apollo -- a startup fixed-wireless broadband provider in Kansas City's River Market District – "Wells is quite sure he is leading the last-mile revolution against the incumbent phone company, and he's going to do it through force of will."

For the past several years he has been heading up a very interesting effort called "aSTEAM Village." This is an effort involving the children of the community in training in science technology engineering arts and math. It is designed to fill in for some of the many shortcomings of the public school system. It also focuses on teaching the kids a work and learning ethic that has been mostly a value set that is well aligned with MIT views of entrepreneurship.

In an email to me William eloquently expressed his frustration saying that he hoped that I "could help shine a light that can enable all of us to see our way towards true inclusion, true opportunities and true fairness. With a true understanding that this is a battle that will be against the beliefs of those who have and continue to benefit from true exclusion, denied opportunities and true unfairness, I hope that you will receive my request of defining the framework of our engagement as it aligns with the pathway that I am on to make another road for those who are not fairing so well on the existing road that the big fish in our city control. The problem is not an institutional problem, it is a problem of individuals who have landed in the right place within the organizations that enable them to leverage relationships with like minded individuals with other organizations that have the name and/or the prestige. **This is truly an Emerald City, not because we are a beautiful green city, but instead because we have plenty of wizards behind the curtains from which they are controlling the Land of Oz."**

COOK Report: Not surprisingly this got my attention. Here was an approach very different from the self-aggrandizing strategy of the manipulation of the fiberhood process by the elite Social Media Club and as well as people from the Public Library who gamed the process by crowdsourcing hundreds if not thousands of $10 registration fees for the installation of Google Fiber filled out on behalf of residents who could never possibly afford the $70 a month fee. [See the Jan-Feb 2015 COOK Report.]

The politicians, smelling money, jumped on the gigabit bandwagon and hired Aaron Deacon to write a "digital playbook" which is nothing more than a professionally done piece of marketing drawing attention to Kansas City in such away that its historical contribution to jazz was never even mentioned and that fails to address the city's digital divide that occurred in no small part as a byproduct of post-World War II real estate development carried out by people like Jesse Nichols.

Although I am not as yet familiar as I would like to be with the differences between aSTEAM Village and the tutorial programs of the DuBois center and Black Family Technology Awareness group, the following way in which William Wells introduces the role of his organization in the context of the public school system is quite eloquent and to the point.

aSTEAM Village (pronounced "esteem" Village) is **founded on the vision to provide students an alternate pathway to success**. To frame the aSTEAM Village concept, imagine education as a one lane road with the State Department of Education filling the role of law enforcement while School Boards, Universities and other Education agencies are the stoplights and street signs. The Department of Transportation, the road builder, dictates the route of the road. In order to travel down this one lane road, your vehicle must abide by the rules of the road or be subject to getting a ticket (identified as a underperforming school) or have your license revoked (closed because you received too many tickets). The wheels are the students and the vehicles are the schools. Some vehicles are high-performance, built for speed and style, while others are economy vehicles, built for mileage and the size of passengers. The rules of the road were made to provide safety for all vehicles based on the environment through which the road winds (i.e., residential, commercial or rural) as opposed to accommodating ALL of the vehicles based on the purpose of their design.

Now a second private road is created. This passing lane does not rival the first road but instead it is ally for the first road because the private road allows the freedom of specialized travel based on the design of the vehicle. In other words aSteam supplements but does not replace the state required

curriculum. Public and Private Schools utilize expanded learning programs like aSTEAM Village as carpool lanes that can provide supplemental education and social programs by becoming champions of community-based learning.

aSTEAM Village is this pathway or passing lane by making five programs available to students and families. These programs, 1) FIRST robotics, 2) Student Spaceflight Experiments Program, 3) DigiPen Video Game Design, 4) DigiPen Animation and 5) Computer Coding, will be offered in an expanded learning (before and after school) program. [They have been selected by William Wells to cast a wider net to attract interest but all five require the basic STEM skills. With a focus on teaching computational thinking and building our program based on the foundation and adoption of the FIRST Robotics Core Values, aSTEAM Village is able to accelerate the preparedness of 21st century problem solvers who are critical thinkers and cooperative learners who are engaged and eager to expand their learning because now their brains are activated and deprogrammed **from being receivers of information to producers of information.**

It's a painful fact that many students attending Kansas City-area schools are graduating without the necessary skills to enter college or the workforce. Businesses in our community report that they experience difficulty finding enough qualified employees to fill their open positions, especially in the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. According to a report produced by the Black Point Policy Solutions, LLC for the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center), "STEM occupations are among the highest-paying, fastest-growing, and most influential in driving economic growth and innovation. Individuals employed in STEM fields enjoy low unemployment, prosperity, and career flexibility. In short, STEM education is a powerful foundation for individual and societal economic success."

Unfortunately, not all students are exposed to STEM-related careers in school or in their homes. Even if students do participate in STEM-focused extracurricular programs, they have limited connections to real-world, hands-on experiences that move them from the classroom into the workplace. Therefore, it is imperative that under-represented groups of students learn not only the skills they need to succeed in these high-demand professions but that they also get introduced to the mentors and companies that can make their dreams a reality.

[. . . .] Next is an abbreviated version of a talk he recently gave to his students.

SMART CITY Speech delivered on Jan. 14th at the GEM Theater during announcement of the SSEP KC Mission 7 Selected student teams

William Wells: This program tonight was structured in such a way as to hopefully plant a seed that will be afforded the opportunity to grow into a tree of community that enables all of us to realize that we are all interconnected and interdependent as a community, as schools, as organizations, as parents, and as students.

The reality is that our interdependency and interconnectivity in this place and time that we refer to as the digital age, a place where the topics of discussion usually revolve around STEM education, digital inclusion, digital connectivity and digital literacy with the stated outcome of becoming a smart city ready to lead the way in the 21st century may have us looking in the wrong place or direction as we try to decipher what reforms we need or what problem do we need to solve and

where will the next technological innovation appear that will resolve our complex problems of today.

In fact, I would like to suggest this that the solution to our problem has very little to do with the speed or access of the connectivity of our schools, homes and businesses. Nor does it center on the devices that we own or use to access the internet.

It is a stated fact that the connectivity and access to devices is indeed abundant throughout our city on both sides of the state line.

I would venture to say that we also can agree that technology is always changing but if we have not or cannot define exactly what is technology, then we will always be aspiring to capture what we find as a seemingly always elusive silver bullet that will bring about a community of fairness, equality and hope. I would like to propose a thought for consideration and reflection.

I would like to ask you to consider that becoming a smart city that is digitally inclusive, a city with a robust economy with an abundance of 21st century skilled workers equipped with the necessary soft skills that is currently now in demand, **the silver bullet or solution to this problem has absolutely nothing to do with gigabit connectivity or one-to-one implementation of technology in our classrooms.**

[. . . .]

The missing piece of the puzzle [of how] to create a digitally inclusive, smart city is the foundation upon which we built aSTEAM Village.

This missing piece to the equation, the silver bullet is what we call "the first robotics core values". The understanding of these core values enables one to see and understand with absolute clarity that if you adopt, embrace and allow the core values to be your guiding light, then everything else you try to achieve in life and in business becomes easy.

When one understands the core values, embraces the core values and commits to the core values then the notion of sending and receiving, which in our world of IT networks, we call...full-duplex connectivity....**then we understand that the technology is not how many digital devices we put in our schools, nor is it how fast the internet connectivity we have access to in our schools and neighborhoods.** Those definitions of technology are based on the output of commerce and profit...which I think can be argued are mere band-aids and quick fixes to a problem that will remain unresolved...the problem of inclusion, community and a level playing field.

The unconditional adoption of core values, let's us understand that the technology is not manufactured nor is it the product of innovation.

Instead, the adoption of core values enables us the clarity to realize that the true definition of technology is [how it is used by] all of us as human beings. That technology is not just some invention that enables one to do more with less. It is not the latest bells and whistles that will be available with the next smartphone or smart tablet.

The core values enables us to realize that without the intellect of humans, without the creativity of humans, without the dreams of humans, our smartphones, smartboards, smart networks and hyper-connectivity are simply tools that will continue to be unused and thus rendered useless to the human race.

So you may ask, what are these core values of which you speak?

Well let me answer that by sharing with you what we teach to the kids that are in our robotics program at aSTEAM Village and our community partner schools, Benjamin Banneker Charter and Academie Lafayette.
These core values are...
-        We are a team
-        We do the work. Our coaches and mentors help us learn, but we find the answers ourselves
-        We share our experiences and discoveries with others
-        We are helpful, kind, and show respect when we work, play and share. We call this gracious professionalism and coopertition
-        We are all winners
-        We have fun...constructive fun!

[. . . .]

To lead a prudent life, we must continually seek to gain wisdom and instruction, for the understanding of words and insight enables us to **receive instruction in prudent behavior which will guide us all to be right and just and fair - digitally inclusive by nature.**

We must gather and store knowledge. If you embrace the core values, then you will without question be wise and the wise will listen and add to their learning and the discerning will receive guidance. The fear of whomever you believe is your creator is the beginning of knowledge and those who fear nothing will despise wisdom and instruction...they will proceed through life half-duplex either just sending or just receiving.

In life, I correlate the senders to producers and the receivers to be consumers. It is not a question of if we have the capacity to be a sender or producer because as humans, organizations and governments, we are one or the other...or both.

The question is whether what we are sending and/or receiving...producing and/or consuming...is good or bad data...is the data that we are transmitting upstream and downstream...our motives...our agendas....our policies...positive or negative?

Are we producing solutions to problems or are we just producing problems without solutions? In turn, are we consuming solutions to problems or are we just consuming problems without solutions.

As for the technology, if we can all consider locking arms and committing to living, embracing and adopting the core values with the humbleness and realization that as imperfect humans, our quest for wisdom is never ending. The silver bullet to become a smart city is for us, individually, as parents, educators, mentors, business leaders, government officials, and community to look inward

and self-evaluate if indeed we are living by the core values which we need to master in order to achieve the end goal of liberty and justice for all.

When we accomplish that goal, then we cannot only proclaim that we live in a smart city but that we are the piece of the puzzle that enabled out city to be smart!

Thank you.

Let's See What MIT has to Say about Entrepreneurship

COOK Report: We know what Kauffman thinks. And we have just heard from William Wells. Now let's look at what MIT says. In a talk, titled Six myths of entrepreneurship, MIT professor Bill Aulet notes:

The first myth is that the entrepreneur is a genius; whereas the reality is that the entrepreneur is a person pursuing his or her passion. **The second myth** is that entrepreneurs are mercurial individuals who make things happen on their own, where the reality is that the entrepreneur excels in teamwork.

The third myth is that you are born not made as an entrepreneur. The reality is that the parents of most entrepreneurs were not entrepreneurs themselves. That this is something that can be learned.

The fourth myth is that entrepreneurs love risk. Not true. Entrepreneurs don't go to casinos because the rules for the house favor the house and not them. What they do is analyze areas in which they possess an advantage and invest in those areas. Investing in their possession of asymmetric knowledge is their definition of risk-taking. What they know is how to take risk and use it to their advantage and, as they do this, they are patient in the long-term

The fifth myth is that entrepreneurs are charismatic. Not true. Entrepreneurship is about affecting change and effecting change, in addition to teamwork, requires leadership. A very important question is do you have a sense-making capability to understand what is going on in the world and do you have the relationships to help make the change happen that you would like to see? You need a vision. You need to understand things as they are period and you need to have a sense of how you can create the kind of change in the status quo that you would like to see.

The six myth is that entrepreneurs are undisciplined. Nothing is further from the truth because as an entrepreneur you are an attacker against the defenders of the established order. That established order has more resources than you do and if you are undisciplined in your attack, the chances are you may fail. You have to have the "spirit of pirate but the execution skills of a Navy seal team six"

Again **Bill Aulet**: The biggest problem is youth growing up and not having a job. If they can become entrepreneurs they can have hope and in such a situation they get pride in what they create is something that is their own. The third issue is rigor. You have to be responsible for execution of your game plan. Passion is needed to bring hope pride and rigor to the youth of the world who are

growing up today. The jobs are not going to be there created by the government, and the jobs are not going to be there created by big companies: entrepreneurs in the future are going to be needed to create their own jobs.

Editor's Comment: In my opinion William Well's aSTEAM program is best matched to the MIT vision of reality. And not to Kauffman's view of "your superiors know what is best for you."

THE BEGINNING

Bill Wells writes: "When I read the *COOK Report* and saw my name mentioned as having a commercial wireless business that did not succeed, I sought you out to explain that the information as given to you was inaccurate. You were given only a sliver of the entire story. We ran successfully for a decade and in that sense certainly did not fail. I teach my kids that we learn from set backs and it is perseverance that turns all failures into success. That is what lends me to admire Ms. Anita Dixon before even meeting her. She succeeded in acquiring a radio license after risking rejection because of the incorrect work of someone else. She did not give up and pushed through to cross a major and most important hurdle to reach her end game. This approach to life is pretty much what led me to reach out to other colleagues to start aSTEAM Village."

"I was hired by Dr. Brown to be the Network Administrator at Benjamin Banneker Charter Academy of Technology (www.bbchartertech.org) affectionately known in KC as BBCAT. Dr. Brown directed me to ensure that BBCAT remains at the forefront of technology in Kansas City education and to continue to grow the program. In 2011, at the invitation of LEGO Education, I was invited to attend the FIRST Robotics World Championships in St. Louis, MO as the special guest of Mr. Harvey Dean, President of Pitsco Education who showed me around the competition."

"It was a life-changing experience for me as there were 30,000 kids from all over the world, all competing using Legos and Robots and the most astonishing thing to me was all 30, 000 kids were behaving as if they were the winners of the competition. There were no frowns, no arguments; just 30,000 kids having super fun, wearing crazy outfits and exchanging high fives, admiration and ideas. I remember saying to myself, this is what World Peace looks like. Last year, at these same championships, kids from two countries who were at war at that exact same moment, were dancing together on stage during the opening ceremony. WOW..how cool is that!"

"My day with Mr. Dean in 2011 led me excitedly back to Dr. Brown's desk asking for her blessings to start a robotics program at BBCAT and without hesitation, she said absolutely. Without knowing it, this is where the aSTEAM Village mission began and its origin was all about kids and STEM education. Now after paying a suburban school $2,500 to come to our campus, use our equipment to hold a robotics summer camp as the kick-off, we never looked back and after an early dismissal from competition in our first year, the kids have grown the BBCAT robotics program into one of the most respected programs in Kansas City. When I saw the challenge our 6th graders were having with the concept of using Legos and working as a team, I realized that we needed to start our program much earlier so my wife and I started a Jr robotics team, grades 1-3, which included our son. This move also was unique because just like our older teams, grades 4-8, we had students who attended other schools, public and private, who came to BBCAT to participate in the robotics pro-

gram. Who does that? Who allows students who do not attend their school to participate in a program by opening the doors of the school to the community? Dr. Marian Brown, that's who."

"Now, it quickly became apparent to me that the school operates under a tremendous amount of pressure to meet state standards and robotics, computers and science were just not a part of those standards. It also became apparent to me that the kids were learning math, learning engineering and learning to be good citizens and growing as leaders because of their involvement in this program. Parent interviews, involvement and school test scores validated this improvement. Dr. Brown noticed this as well as others who began to come into the orbit of BBCAT, a school that serves 99% Free and Reduced Lunch students because their families live at or below the poverty line. **The realization that for 11 years, Dr. Brown has run this school basically in a desert, isolated from valuable resources, both intellectual and financial, led me to believe that the solution to this problem were community-based programs that were brain sports would be the solution to the problem.** Dr. Brown must have been thinking the exact same way by authorizing my request to start a robotics program and then calling on me to start and implement the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program which was also a community-based learning program founded by Dr. Jeff Goldstein of the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (www.ncess.org) "

"**The most important thing to understand about these programs is that it enables the students ownership of their learning, creativity and time management and relegates the role of the adults to be more coaches and mentors as opposed to teachers.** To me, this is the way it should be because the education that all of us adults received was not meant for use in today's global economy. To be quite frank, we as baby boomers, Gen. X & Y are Digital Immigrants and the kids of today who are Generation Z, in fact are the Digital Natives."

"Therefore, I must humble myself to realize that much of my formal education is of no value to the youth of today and tomorrow but my informal education, the core values taught to me my parents, mentors and failures in life, is of absolute value to the youth of today and tomorrow."

"This philosophy and approach is the foundation of aSTEAM Village and the guiding principle of my total support for education as it is today, governance as it is today and my commitment to create change by placing a focus internally as opposed to complaining about things externally of which you have absolutely no control. This is the approach I try to implore both the students and parents to take as we try to eradicate poverty, seize control of our destiny and build an all-inclusive, prosperous community."

Conclusion

Two issues ago I published a special discussion held at Mutual Musicians in late June that referred to various Kansas City groups having squabbled with each other like crabs in a barrel. As I have became since then far more immersed with various players who were not among the power structure, I've seen reminders of this time and time again and I've been amazed that groups whom one would think should be cooperating with each other for whatever reason do not.

I would hope that they want to learn cooperation and independence in the area that Anita calls the three square miles. Certainly the low-power FM license can be a powerful force in furthering this kind of goal. *I for one would like to see those who were pushed aside by the likes of Jesse Nichols and the builders of the Troost Wall regain their independence from the rest of the city power brokers and create their own future.*

Postscript Thursday January 29, 2015

Today Bill Wells sent this to me. "One thing that I would implore you to do is to watch the video of 15-year old Kelvin Doe and his journey to M.I.T. - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOLOL-rUBRBY&x-yt-ts=1422411861&feature=player_embedded&x-yt-cl=84924572   *Kelvin represents the students that I work with at aSTEAM Village and he is also the prototype of what I want our students to become."*

"This video ties together your assessment of the like-minded thinking of aSV & M.I.T with apparently 8.5 million viewers around the globe believe the same thing. Watch this video and realize that despite the fact that a town in Sierra Leone gets lights one day per week in the 21st Century, a 15 year old is on mission to solve the problems of his neighborhood and he is working with electronics salvaged from the local trash dumps to make make his mission become a reality. You will see the core values of the desire to build a team, love for his family and above all, concern for the well-being of others and solving their problems which will in turn automatically solve his."

"It is not without irony that the main project for his team was a transistor radio so that he could give his community a voice and a sense of empowerment to improve their communications amongst themselves internally and to the world externally. It is absolutely masterful . . . that your issue will tie together all of the narratives of the Kelvin Doe video in the different articles. [**Editor** - including that the ordinary citizens of Catalonia working together can over a period of the past decade build with their own hands state of the art broadband telecommunications system - something that the spanish and American incumbent companies claim to be impossible.]   .   .   **If there is open source and transparency without boundaries, then it is that much harder to maintain the status quo structure of economic development, empowerment and growth controlled from the top down."**

"Soon there will be an app that will instantly deliver to your smart phone, smart tablet, smart TV and/or smart watch the status of the vote of your local congressman, senator and the bill upon which they are voting, delivered in real-time just like we receive our smart updates on our favorite football and baseball teams. When that happens then votes will count, Washington will be repaired and good things will get done and the march from Selma to Montgomery will bear the fruits that it was destined to produce. The innovation will happen because we will be informed."

COOK Report: William's optimism is greater than my own but still I congratulate him for that. Nevertheless I must ask: What then is the lesson that the Kansas City power structure is deter-

mined to teach its citizens? "Don't even try because our research proves you will fail." What is the appropriate role model for its youth? The Kauffman policy director's cartoons included above? Or is it William Well's encouragement to capture and ignite a passion and then to spread their wings and fly. I come back to my earlier conclusion that it is not enough to recycle old computers and resell them to the cities poor with digital life skills classes and consider your job done. When Connecting for Good does this it is better than nothing, but why not partner with aSTEAM Village to teach the children to build new Raspberry Pi's to plug into their parent's TV for significantly less money? It strikes me that was long as these separate islands of assistance that remain in their silos rather that organizing together across silos, such action really offers folk like Kauffman the promise that their rule will go unchallenged.

I would like to see some sign that anyone in the KC power structure knew of or cared about Kelvin Doe. Someone ought to talk to the Chamber about another American MYTH. That of upward mobility. The leadership exchange you see above is "an invitation only" event, meeting this year in Portland, Oregon. The leadership exchange acts as a reward given to the consensus builders and maintainers of the status quo.

With the award of the construction permit for a low power FM station, as Anita said above, ordinary citizens of Kansas City will have their first independent voice in almost half a century. Horizontal communication will be possible. Those who heretofore have been competing to get a foothold in the city's vertically organized power structure will have an opportunity to work together for the immediate greater good of their local community. Divide and conquer will become more difficult for the wizards. The DuBois Learning Center, Black Family Technology Awareness, aSTEAM Village, the Upper Room and other likeminded organizations will have an opportunity to share rather than hoard resources. The new low power FM station will become a focal point for horizontal social communication and shared pride.

Indeed the feedback I am getting says that some of this is happening already and furthermore that, as plans for redevelopment of the jazz district occur, great care will be taken by all to avoid potential dangerous shoals marked by some recent issues of who owns what and under what conditions? There is big money there and, where big money is, there lurk alligators and other dangers. The new low power FM station should enable open discussion among the entire jazz district community. For that we applaud Anita's determination and look forward to a terrific 100 year celebration of Mutual Musicians in 2017.