



Ambassador for Amphitheater High School, which is not covered in the AmeriCorps grant). At the MEC Retreat raising funds for stipends for S.A's was discussed.

Our fundraising goal for the year will be \$5,000 - \$6,000. Dr. Webb-Vignery pointed out that there will be no stipend for the RCAC Student Ambassadors this year at this point (AmeriCorps S.A's will receive a \$1,200 Education Award and 4 college credits from Prescott College if they complete their full 300 hours of service).

Dr. Webb-Vignery pointed out that staff funding will be needed for the Commission to function; there is no money earmarked for the MEC from the AmeriCorps grant. We will approach the MEC Commissioners to fundraise for Student Ambassadors at Amphitheater, Ajo, Marana, and Sahuarita. Jo Riester said that all of those high schools have foundations. Rafael Meza said that requests should be for Administrative costs – funding for administration and training, as seed monies. We should also include that the Student Ambassadors are receiving professional development/experience; for a five-year plan we will need funds to support the program. Another point to make is student retention at the schools that will result from the program.

A “Pace Setter” donation was suggested for the campaign, and that could be placed within the name of the event. We need to identify our audience, and how our message could resonate with different age groups. We could use the Kickstarter model, and also ask our youth group for branding ideas. The term, “Forerunners” was suggested. Our goal would be 16 Student Ambassadors for the non-AmeriCorps schools, at \$2,000 per S.A. We have no money from AmeriCorps, and the students will need to defray their transportation costs, which is a large issue for them - the S.A's would need to come to the MEC office for training and meetings twice a month. We should look into bus passes from the downtown (Ronstadt) bus center, they are a less expensive option for the students. Students would need student ID's to obtain them. It would be beneficial to have a budget line item for transportation; we should also make donors aware of incidental expenses – a “Support Cost” per student. Dr. Webb-Vignery said that there is some concern regarding S.A pay – some received \$10.00 per hour through the MEC; AmeriCorps S.A's will be getting the equivalent of \$4.00 per hour. At the MEC Retreat it was stated that some S. A's were volunteers. Felicia suggested that the amount needs to be the same across the board for the S.A.'s. Mr. Meza stated that if the Commissioners want the S.A's to be paid a \$2,000 stipend, then we will have to revisit the idea – some schools might not get S.A's in that case. AmeriCorps will not be part of this stipend.

People would give more if it is demonstrated that the expenses are tied directly to the students. We will need a rough estimate for matching funds. Regarding these, Felicia pointed out that we should be liberal with what we ask for because students will be learning valuable life skills, and will be taking these back to their peers, which will last a lifetime. Their service can be placed on their resumes as well. Students are faced with many obstacles, and bus passes would be their “Golden Ticket”. Jo Riester stated that she will contact Thrivent Financial (who funded the lunches for the MEC's Student Advocacy Day) – we could use these funds for food for the Reception if they are educated as to our goals. Jo will write the grant proposal for this.

Dr. Webb-Vignery stated that we will also need \$7,000.00 for our Website Developer Bryan O'Neal, and that we will need a description of his duties. We should itemize support items for the RCAC program and what these will do to support it. Counselor stipends would be a goodwill gesture; we were able to have them through the last Helios Grant. The Student Ambassadors will be reporting to the school counselors, who report to the schools. The counselors will be trained (on the RCAC) by David. For \$1,500 we can train one counselor re: Student Ambassadors. A Counselor Appreciation Day was suggested. It was asked how the Student Ambassadors would be assessed. Dr. Webb-Vignery suggested including the RCAC in the Counselor nomination form for the Crystal Apple Award.

#### RCAC RECEPTION EVENT FUNDING

Arlene Benavides has created an Event Planning Worksheet, which was visited point-by-point. She will approach Dr. Robert Breault for a \$1,500 - \$2,000 Sponsorship, and will also contact Jason's Deli. Felicia has a contact at Chik-Fil-A and will contact them. Jim Click was suggested. We will need various logistical items such as a portable sound system for public address, presentations, and background music.

#### AGENDA

MEC Commissioner George Favela will be asked to moderate the Reception. Pima County Supervisor Richard Elías and Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild will be asked to deliver Welcoming Remarks in their capacity as RCAC Co-Chairs. Arlene Benavidez will present on the formation of the RCAC, as she laid the foundation. David Rodriguez will present on the RCAC and Student Ambassador Program and the Student Ambassadors; former Student Ambassadors will present on their success stories. Rafael Meza will deliver the Appeal. We will need to keep the presentations short.

#### RCAC LOGIC MODEL

The MEC Commissioners will vote on adopting the Logic Model at the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting – the Logic Model brings the MEC Commissioners into the fundraising process. The following fundraising avenues will be pursued: Letters of Appeal; the RCAC Reception; Chambers of Commerce; Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon Sponsorships amounts increases; Other municipalities participation; Desert Diamond/Casino of the Sun; Southern Arizona Leadership Council; other businesses.

#### 6.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the RCAC Oversight Committee will take place on Monday, Monday, September 28, 2015, 7:30 a.m.

#### 7.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Amber Mathewson  
Second: Jo Riester  
Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.