



# Align & Engage



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[Ready High School Network Meeting](#)

11/17/2016

[Rubber City Math Teachers' Circle Meeting](#)

11/17/2016

## Moving the Needle

Dear friends,

It seems like that darn needle always needs to be moved! The needle I am most familiar with is very stubborn. It never moves in the right direction and it very easily moves in the wrong direction. I'm betting some of you have that same needle. **The dreaded bathroom scale needle.**



It takes no effort at all to move it in the wrong direction, but a great deal of effort to move it where I want it. In fact, I often need help from my family and my coworkers to keep moving the needle in the right direction. I also need to not shy away from the details about food calories and exercise payoff. I have a fancy watch which tells me, when I wear it, more details than I care to know. **Lots of data...** but the needle only moves in the right direction with focused effort and help.

The same seems to be true with our **education needle**. We don't have to do anything for the needle to move the wrong way. That's actually the best way for the needle to go the wrong way: don't do anything! But if we want the educational attainment needle to move in the right direction, it takes work. It takes collective, purposeful, aligned, steady and consistent work. It means setting a goal, say **48,000 degrees by 2025**, and then getting down to the difficult and hard business of helping our students be successful. It means not shying away from the details, even though they can make us feel uncomfortable, like when [we look at student achievement through the lens of equity](#).

As a community of committed individuals and organizations who value a thriving and prosperous future, we must do the hard work,

[Third Grade Reading Action Team Meeting](#)  
11/30/2016

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online Join the conversation for what our children need to succeed. <a href="http://www.seisummit.org">www.seisummit.org</a>	 Summit Education Initiative
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using uncomfortable data, to make meaningful strides in moving the needle. We took two big steps forward over the last few weeks, thanks to your support and presence. Read more about them in the story below.

I encourage you to stay engaged with our work and our partners' work through the end of this year and into 2017. Whether you serve one of our strategy teams, apply to serve [Leadership Akron's Civic Solutions Lab](#) or sign-up to mentor an Akron Public Schools student via [iCARE Mentoring](#), you are making a difference in the future of our kids.

Sincerely,



**Derran Wimer**  
Executive Director  
Summit Education Initiative

## In Case You Missed It!

### SEI helped plan two successful events in October



School Readiness Summit keynote speaker Dr. Dipesh Navsaria

Our staff members have heard many positive comments about the [Cradle to Career Experience simulation](#) during our annual event, [Their Success Is Our Success: "Climbing Toward 48,000 Degrees,"](#) presented by Huntington Bank. Based on survey feedback, several of our partner organizations

and business leaders are interested in hosting one of these programs to help us increase awareness of Summit County's educational status and ways to improve outcomes for individuals. We're excited to share more of the Cradle to Career Experience with you!

Summit Education Initiative is also happy we now have an animated video to help us explain our mission, vision and goals. Haven't seen it yet? Click [this link](#). (View photos from our annual event [here](#).)

Finally, we were blown away by the attention [Summit County First Things First's 2016 School Readiness Summit](#), presented by PNC Bank, received last week. Not only did we surpass our attendance goal by convening more than 500 guests, but we also launched our [School Readiness Coalitions](#) - a project more than 30 individuals have signed up to help us with so far!

Had to miss the Summit? Watch the welcome video [here](#) to learn why leaders in Summit County think we should give kids a chance. You may also view photos from the Summit [here](#).)

## When Creativity Meets Civility

### Students submit videos to express views on voting

Students from [St. Vincent de Paul Parish School](#), [Eastwoods Elementary School](#) and [Proyecto RAICES](#) won cash prizes for the videos they submitted to the [#ThisCityVotes16](#) / Joy of Voting [video contest](#). We thank those who participated!

The Jefferson Center and Akron Beacon Journal secured the grant from Citizen University to host a [film festival](#) on Oct. 19 at Akron-Summit County Public Library, where they displayed the winners' videos. Summit Education Initiative organized the competition and recruited schools to participate.



ThisCityVotes16 video contest winners from St. Vincent de Paul Parish School

Below is a list of winners:

### **Beacon's Choice - \$150 each**

#### **Eastwoods Elementary School**

Jade Blankenship  
Kayla Kalnicki

#### **St. Vincent de Paul Parish School (Middle School)**

Myah Hammond  
Madison Moegerle  
Matthew O'Connor

#### **Thinking About Voting - St. Vincent de Paul Parish School**

Annie Bame  
Georgia Deitrick  
Lauren Parasson  
Avery Schwerdtfeger

#### **Why Voting is Important - St. Vincent de Paul Parish School**

Lauren Ferracane  
Griffin Morgan  
Julie Reza  
William Schafer

### **Popular Choice - \$100 each**

[Jimena Campos](#) - Proyecto RAICES

[Lourdes Montes](#) - Proyecto RAICES

[The Voting Rap](#) - St. Vincent de Paul Parish School

Christina Chicatelli  
Shianne Howard  
Adrianna Ramos  
Fiona Ruane  
Abby Zarembka

Summit Education Initiative (SEI) is a nonprofit organization working to enhance the educational experiences of individuals and their families living in Summit County. We believe this helps ensure every student graduates prepared, passionate and persistent. The mission of SEI is to improve personal and regional prosperity through increased educational attainment.

If you would like to get involved or if you have any questions please contact **Derran Wimer** at **330.535.8833** or [dwimer@seisummit.org](mailto:dwimer@seisummit.org).

