Community

- **Defined**
  - Together
  - Exchanges that link
  - Small, intimate, local

- **Culture – The way of life for an entire society/community**
  - Manners
  - Dress
  - Language
  - Religion
  - Behavior
  - System of beliefs
Why Community Support for Entrepreneurs

- Adaptability, reinvigoration, sustainability of our local economy over time
- Increased rate of economic growth
  - New job creation
- Increased standard of living
- Securing the future for ourselves and our children
Who are the Entrepreneurs

- Richard Florida’s theory centers on the creative class
  - Controversial
  - Driving force for economic development
  - Spawning a major shift and general restructuring of economic hierarchies

- Littleton, Colorado – New Economy Project
  - 80% of jobs from 3% of companies
    - Gazelles
  - Innovation is a key to growth
  - Winners continue to win
A Community of Support

- **Regional factors**
  - Diverse source of capital
  - Enabling culture
  - Networks
  - Supportive infrastructure
  - “Friendly” government

- **Access**
  - People
  - Seed Capital
  - Information & infrastructure
A Community of Support

- **Organizations that help**
  - Leadership programs
  - Technology services

- **Building networks**
  - Central component of entrepreneurial climate

- **Tell the Story**
Final Thoughts

- Change is mandatory – progress is optional
- It’s all about the people