

PRESS RELEASE

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Town Hall Meetings to Focus on Building New Opportunities for Workers

Communities statewide struggling with the economic downturn will have a chance to discuss the need for new opportunities for Nebraska's workforce in a series of town hall meetings this summer. The meetings, entitled "Building the Good Life in Nebraska: Town Hall Discussions about Creating Opportunity for Nebraska Families and Workers" will be held in Scottsbluff, Kearney, Lincoln and Omaha.

"We must pull together to create strategies for economic recovery today and for our state's long-term economic competitiveness in the future. Nebraska's workers are a key part of such efforts, and it is vital to discuss opportunities for training, education, and the development of quality jobs for working families in our state," states Rebecca Gould, Executive Director of the Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest, one of the nonprofit organizations sponsoring the events.

The events will include a presentation on workforce issues, a panel discussion including business leaders, members of the State Legislature, and community members, as well as use of an individualized electronic feedback system to track input and feedback from community participants. Issues to be addressed include: access to education and training for working people, quality jobs, and work supports such as health care. Events are free and open to the public - all community members are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

June 23 @ Scottsbluff, Harms Technology Center, 6:30-8:30 pm

June 25 @ Kearney, University of Nebraska Kearney, Copeland Hall room 140, 6:30-8:30 pm

July 7 @ Omaha, University of Nebraska Omaha, Collaborating Commons, College of Public Affairs and Community Service, 6:30-8:30 pm

July 9 @ Lincoln, University of Nebraska Lincoln, Central Campus Student Union Auditorium, 6:30-8:30 pm

Non-profit sponsors of the event are: Opportunity@Work, Lincoln/Lancaster County Human Services Federation, The Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest, The Panhandle Partnership for Health and Human Services, the American Democracy Project at the University of Nebraska Kearney, and the University of Nebraska Omaha. Engaging Technologies has donated the feedback technology.

The event is a part of Nebraska's "Economic Opportunity Campaign." The Economic Opportunity Campaign promotes policy options that build opportunities for low-income Nebraskans. These policies are grounded in Nebraska values and seek to strengthen our

families and communities by giving every Nebraskan a fair chance of reaching their potential. The Economic Opportunity Campaign promotes these policies by mobilizing communities, conducting media outreach, and engaging in public policy advocacy. The campaign is organized by the Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest.

RSVPs are requested but not required at www.neappleseed.org/rsvp

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Nebraska Appleseed, a nonprofit, nonpartisan public interest law project, is a national leader in addressing social problems facing vulnerable children without loving and permanent homes, low-income families working hard to make ends meet, and new immigrants seeking a better life. Nebraska Appleseed's current year action plan and description of its six program areas, significant litigation and policy reform successes, and broad-based accomplishments can be found at neappleseed.org.

Nebraska Appleseed is a part of the Appleseed network of independent state-based public interest law centers working to identify and address social injustices. The Appleseed network seeks to build a just society through education, legal advocacy, community activism and policy expertise by addressing root causes and producing practical, systemic solutions with broad implication. For more information visit appleseednetwork.org.
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