

PRESS RELEASE

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FORUM TO FOCUS ON ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND WORKFORCE NEEDS

Lincoln, NE: State leaders in education, labor, and government will discuss the current budget crunch, the economic downturn, and Nebraska's future workforce needs in an upcoming forum sponsored by the Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest entitled "Building Nebraska's Future Workforce."

"Now more than ever, collaboration is essential for Nebraska to build new opportunities for low income families and unemployed workers, and to come out ahead in economic recovery," states Rebecca Gould, Executive Director of the Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest, "this forum is an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss new ways to work together to serve our families, workers, and communities in and through tough economic times."

The forum will feature Neil Ridley, Senior Policy Analyst with the Center for Law and Social Policy (www.clasp.org) who will address employment policy, workforce development, and postsecondary education issues from a national perspective. State Senator Heath Mello will address strategic planning initiatives. A panel of representatives from state administrative departments, including the Department of Education, the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Labor will discuss future workforce needs and strategies.

The event is open to the public and will be held October 29, 2009 from 9:30 to 4:30 pm at the Doubletree Hotel in Omaha. Access www.neappleseed.org to register.

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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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