

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COLVILLE EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYEES ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN RURAL "LISTENING TOUR" MAY 14

COLVILLE- Colville area employers, their employees, as well as local education and training providers, elected officials, jobseekers, and others, are invited to attend the third of four Rural Community Vitality Forums being held by the state's Workforce Board in rural areas across the state.

The Forum is slated for 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 14 at the Colville campus at Spokane Community College.

When it comes to training existing employees and finding qualified new hires, the challenge is real in rural Washington, including the greater Colville area. Education, workforce training, and other services may or may not be available. If they are—then are they working for the community?

The rural "listening tour" is being led by the state's Workforce Board, which helps convene and oversee the state's workforce system. An economist from the Workforce Board will provide a snapshot of the local economy. Then a facilitator funded by the U.S. Department of Labor will help capture comments and frame next steps.

The Community Forum runs from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and includes lunch. Prior to the Forum, area employers are encouraged to attend a Business Breakfast. The breakfast runs from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. It's a separate event that leads to the main Forum. Comments from business leaders will help shape the Community Forum that follows.

Register for these free events at: <u>http://www.wtb.wa.gov/RuralCommunityVitalityForums.asp</u>

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