



Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VALLEY EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYEES ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN RURAL “LISTENING TOUR” APRIL 23

TOPPENISH- Yakima Valley employers, their employees, as well as local education and training providers, elected officials, jobseekers, and others, are invited to attend the first of four Rural Community Vitality Forums being held by the state’s Workforce Board in rural areas across the state.

The kick-off Forum is slated for Tuesday, April 23 in Toppenish, at the Yakama Nation Cultural Heritage Center.

When it comes to training existing employees and finding qualified new hires, the challenge is real in rural Washington, including the Yakima Valley. 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 either (or both) of these free events at:

<http://www.wtb.wa.gov/RuralCommunityVitalityForums.asp>

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