

PRESS RELEASE

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WORKFORCE CENTERS IN EASTERN COLORADO FOCUSING ON EMPLOYER SERVICES DURING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH

Open houses and free seminars taking place all month showcase services to business

(DENVER) -- In recognition of the 2.7 million men and women who make up Colorado's labor force and the more than 168,000 private sector businesses that make up the state, this September is Workforce Development Month, an annual tradition in Colorado.

Throughout the month, Colorado's Workforce Centers (a network of state and county run employment offices) will be teaming with the Department of Labor and Employment to provide a variety of special events.

Open Houses will be held on the following dates at these Workforce Centers. Employers and job seekers are invited to stop in during the day to meet with staff and learn about the free services available to them:

- **September 14:** The Limon Workforce Center at 235 D Avenue. The Open House runs from 1 PM to 3 PM.
- **September 20:** Sterling Workforce Center in Walker Hall of Northeastern Junior College, 100 College Drive. For details and reservations, call 970-522-9340
- **September 21:** Fort Morgan Workforce Center, 411 Main Street, #400. For details and reservations, call 970-867-9401.

Business owners are particularly encouraged to stop in to these Open Houses. “Even in the strongest economy, starting, growing and managing a new business is a formidable task,” says Ellen Golombek, Executive Director of the Department of Labor and Employment. “In today’s business climate, it requires an act of courage. Our focus for Workforce Development Month this year will be helping Colorado’s businesses succeed. Each success lights the way for other companies to move forward and the jobs they create will build a more competitive Colorado.”

Workforce Centers can assist businesses in --

- Recruiting pre-screened and qualified applicants;
- Understanding market trends that help in decision making;
- Training employees for new job duties;
- Offsetting the costs involved in hiring and training workers;
- Minimizing the negative impact of business downsizing
- Making the right decisions to ensure a competitive edge;
- Understanding labor laws, Workers’ Compensation and other requirements

Workforce Centers across Eastern Colorado will also be offering a free “roundtable” presentation for employers during September. Workforce Centers are teaming up with the Colorado Civil Rights Division to offer business owners the basics of Colorado’s employment discrimination laws. The free training will be offered on these dates:

September 26: This training session on employment discrimination will be provided at the Limon Community Building, 477 D Avenue, from 9 AM to 10:30 AM. Call 719-775-2387 for more information.

September 27: A session in Burlington will be offered from 1:30 PM to 3 PM at the Burlington Community Center, 415 South 15th Street (phone 719-346-5331 to attend). The training will be available on that same day at the Election Center in Wray (130 East 3rd Street) from 7:30 AM to 9 AM and again from 12:30 PM to 2 PM. Call 970-848-3760 to reserve a seat.

September 28: The training will be held at Inklings Bookstore, 221 North Interocean in Holyoke from 9 AM to 10:30 AM. For details, call 970-522-9340.

September 29: Several sessions will be held at Northeast Junior College, 100 College Avenue, Room 230 in Sterling. You can attend from 11 AM to 12:30 PM, from 2 PM to 3:30 PM or from 6 PM to 7:30 PM. Call 970-522-9340 to make reservations.

September 30: The final training session will be available at Morgan Community College, 920 Barlow Road (Founders Room) in Fort Morgan from 7 AM to 8:30 AM and again from 12 Noon to 1:30 PM. Call 970-867-9401 Ext. 16 for more information.

The ninety minute sessions will underscore the most important information people need regarding this topic, delivered in a way that makes learning easily understood and immediately applicable. Among the topics covered in each seminar will be an overview of protected classes, an overview of discriminatory harassment and discrimination, the rights and responsibilities of employers and employees and a segment on sexual harassment in the workplace.

There will be no charge for the workshop or the accompanying materials and participants will be provided with an acknowledgement that they have taken the class for their files.

For a map of all Workforce Centers across Colorado, go to the Department of Labor and Employment's website (<http://www.colorado.gov/cdle>) and click on the "Divisions" link. Click on the "Calendar of Events" link on the front page for a listing of local events taking place across the state in September.

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