

Early Childhood Development Conference Planned at SWOSU

10.26.2009

Southwestern Oklahoma State University is sponsoring an economic summit on early childhood development on Wednesday, November 18, on the Weatherford campus.

The meeting, sponsored by the Center for Economic and Business Development at SWOSU, will be held at 11:30 a.m. in the Conference Center, located at the corner of 7th Street and Davis Road on the SWOSU campus. Everyone is invited.

Featured speakers include Lt. Governor Jari Askins; State Representative Harold Wright; Pat Potts, president of the Potts Family Foundation; Robert Harbison of Lawton; Dale Wares, childcare program manager of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services; Kimberley Kelly, SWOSU early childhood education teacher; Kathie Price, director of the Southwest Oklahoma Workforce Investment Board; Paula Waters, Director of the Smart Start in Enid; Betty Porter, director of the Great Plains Child Care Resource and Referral; Vicki Rexroat from Caddo-Kiowa Technology Center Childcare Training program; and Doug Misak, director of the Small Business Development Center in Weatherford.

There is no registration fee and lunch will be provided. However, registration is required to attend. The deadline for registration is November 9. Business and industry representatives are encouraged to attend.

Please call Lisa Rockett at 580.774.7017 or CM Lin at 580.774.7145, fax 580.774.7096 for registration and additional information.

Lin said before age 5, children establish the building blocks of their academic and social skills. Investment in early childhood development results in readiness for school success and higher educational attainment, and develops a better prepared and more productive future workforce.

"That is why improving children's lives in their earliest years is not only the right thing to do but also what businesses need to succeed," Lin said. "It also helps assure the economic future of our state."

Research shows that children who enter kindergarten ready to succeed grow to be the book-smart, team-capable, job-ready workers who help business prosper, and the good neighbors who help communities thrive. Employers are calling for practical, cost-effective changes to public policy, because they recognize the failing to invest in these most critical resources hurts the economy.