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**Washoe County to hold ‘Ready for Life’
Town Hall Meeting**
*Nevada Public Education Foundation’s movement at
center of gathering Oct. 29*

RENO, Nev. – It has been estimated that each student who drops out of school costs the nation approximately \$260,000 over their lifetimes, according to the Alliance for Excellent Education. The dropout epidemic in Nevada has impacted not only the workforce but also is directly tied to the state’s crime rate and overall quality of life.

More than 19,500 students from the class of 2008 dropped out of high school in Nevada. If the students earned their diplomas and sought careers after graduation, an additional \$5.1 billion in wages would have been earned in their lifetimes, according to the Alliance for Excellent Education.

To address head on the importance of today’s youth staying in school and becoming “ready for life,” the Nevada Public Education Foundation has partnered with the Youth Services Development Group, Washoe County, Washoe County School District, Applied Staffing Solutions, Education Collaborative of Washoe County, Inc., Nevada State Society for Human Resources Management Council, Lionel Sawyer and Collins and the City of Reno to convene leaders, parents and other key stakeholders and members of the community to launch the Ready for Life movement.

Ready for Life is a statewide movement launched by the Nevada Public Education Foundation to ensure all youth in Nevada are educated, ready to learn, experienced and ready for careers, and connected to adults and their peers. The Washoe Ready for Life Steering Committee is hosting a town hall meeting from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 29, at the Wooster High School Little Theater – located at 1331 E. Plumb Lane just off of Matley Lane in Reno. The focus is on the needs of Nevada’s youth and the proposed community wide movement to serve those needs. Sen. Steven Horsford and Shannon West, chair of the Committee on Youth in Southern Nevada, will serve as moderators as will Len Stevens, executive director of the Sparks Chamber of Commerce.

“Our economy and our future depend on our youth,” said Laura Granier, chair elect of the Nevada Public Education Foundation, executive board member for Washoe Ready for Life and attorney with Lionel Sawyer and Collins. “We need to work together as a community and leverage our resources to address this critical issue that impacts everyone and every sector.”

The town hall meeting is open to the public. Reservations must be made by Oct. 27. To RSVP, call 775-788-8652 or e-mail ryturbide@lionelsawyer.com.

Known primarily for the establishment of its “Ready for Life” movement, Nevada Public Education Foundation is a statewide organization that leverages resources and partnerships to help Nevada’s youth become “ready for life.” Established in 1991, the organization convenes local, regional and statewide organizations doing similar work to maximize resources and effort; seeks to consistently measure and improve programs and services; and organizes public and private support to sustain the work and ensure that young people receive the education and resources they need to become productive, contributing members of society.

For more information on Nevada Public Education Foundation, call 702-486-6492 for Southern Nevada, 775-687-9203 for Northern Nevada, or visit readyforlifenv.org.

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