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NEWS RELEASE

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Workplace Stability Workshop on Oct. 20

Learn how to achieve workplace stability for entry-level employee retention and performance

DUBUQUE, Iowa -- A new initiative to support local businesses that employ low-wage and/or employees experiencing personal instability will kick off with a free breakfast and workshop on Friday, Oct. 20.

Low-wage workers often experience personal instability that leads to absenteeism, health problems, and violations of workplace expectations. These consequences of instability lower workplace morale, decrease employees' attention to work and job performance, and result in increased costs for businesses.

The Dubuque Circles Initiative, a City of Dubuque Housing and Community Development Department program, is coordinating a new Workforce Stability initiative to support local businesses in addressing these issues. The initiative will be launched at a breakfast and workshop on Friday, Oct. 20, 2017. A keynote address by Ruth Weirich, author of "Workplace Stability," will begin at 8 a.m. and will be followed by a workshop from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Hotel Julien's Grand Ballroom.

The Workforce Stability initiative can help businesses better understand the obstacles their lower-wage employees face and assist businesses in developing strategies to foster retention, growth, and productivity. It will also provide support to employees who are struggling with daily instability in their personal lives by offering a personal development course called "Getting Ahead in the Workplace." This course will assist participants in the development of goals that will lead them toward stability, while also connecting them to the resources they need to achieve those goals.

City of Dubuque Circles Coordinator Ermina Soler is overseeing the initiative, which she says supports efforts to strengthen Dubuque's workforce, "Employee instability creates business instability. This affects the business' bottom line. Workplace Stability offers tools and solutions that business leaders can implement to help their employees boost their performance and retention."

This event is co-sponsored by Dubuque Works, a Greater Dubuque Development Corporation initiative funded by the City of Dubuque, Dubuque County, and the Q Casino/Dubuque Racing Association, and the Tri-State Human Resource Association. The keynote is designed for CEOs, executives, human resource professionals, and managers and supervisors, with a workshop following to go more in-depth for human resource and other key staff with continuing education credits available. The event is free and open to the public and will include the Workplace Stability book, breakfast, and refreshments. Register for the event at www.cityofdubuque.org/workplacestability. For more information, contact Ermina Soler at esoler@cityofdubuque.org or 563.589.6909.

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