

NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS

Moderator: Michele Higgs
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3EST

Operator: Thank you for standing by and welcome to your Neighborhood Networks Monthly Conference Call. This call is being recorded.

At this time, I would like to turn the call over to your moderator for today, Ms. Michele Higgs; please go ahead.

Michele Higgs: Thank you, Anthony. Welcome to the Neighborhood Network February Conference Call. I thank all of you for joining us. Just to give you a "heads up," the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area is experiencing what it calls a snow emergency and one of our speakers has been detained. So hopefully, she will join us in the next few minutes.

For the time being though, today's topic is from the Office of University Partnerships, "How to Make Your Local University or Community College Work for Your Center." My name is Michele Higgs and I'm joined today by Jennifer Brower, who coordinated the content for this call.

Jennifer and I are technical assistance coordinators, and we represent the team of technical assistance coordinators who work with you to address the needs of the various Neighborhood Network Centers around the country.

Neighborhood Networks centers face continuing challenges as they search for good partners to serve the needs of a diverse and changing resident population, but often the answer is as close as the nearest college or university. Many of the residents who use our centers benefit from exposure to the students and resources that reside there.

With institutions of higher learning being a microcosm of the greater community it would seem there's a natural pairing between the two. A mutual benefit accrues to the schools as well, since the college's or university's profiles are elevated in the community by reaching out to be of help to the center.

Today, representatives from HUD's Office of University Partnerships (OUP), and Elizabeth City State University (ESCU), will join us to discuss the program, and how the OUP can be of assistance to Neighborhood Networks centers. Collaborating with HUD's Office of University Partnerships gives Neighborhoods Network centers access to many resources to enrich their programs.

The purpose of this call is to help center staff learn how to work with HUD's Office of University Partnerships to provide meaningful experiences for students and to build support for center staff and residents, by utilizing the resources available at their local university or community college.

Now, I'm going to take one moment and speak with Anthony, our operator, to see if our second speaker has joined us. Anthony?

Operator: Not as of yet ma'am, no.

Michele Higgs: OK, thank you. Now, before I go on to introduce the speakers, I want to remind you about the Strategic Tracking and Reporting Tool, also known as the START business plan.

START contains resource materials that help you look at the capacity of your center, and provide the foundation upon which you can organize your activities.

It will help you look at who your residents are, and what resources in the community can help you meet their needs. START will also help centers craft the partnerships that address their residents' interest, and strengthen a center's profile in the community.

Now, if you have questions about the START business plan, resident surveys, internal marketing plans, or general questions about Neighborhood Networks, please call the toll-free Neighborhood Networks information line at: (888) 312-2743.

You can also visit the Neighborhood Networks Web site at www.neighborhoodnetworks.org.

Again toll-free, you can call (888)--312-2743 or visit the Web site, which is www.neighborhoodnetworks.org.

Also, I have something else to tell you about. With the Neighborhood Networks Web site, you can access the Neighborhood Networks Discussion Board, and there, you can share information among yourselves. You can post news. You can ask questions.

Just go to the Web site at www.neighborhoodnetworks.org and click on the Neighborhood Networks Online Networking link to the right under the green banner labeled helpful tools. Go visit, check it out.

I also want to remind listeners that a verbatim transcript of this call will be made available on the Neighborhood Networks site in about two weeks. Before we go on, I'm going to check once again with Anthony. Has our next speaker arrived?

Operator: She has not as of yet, ma'am.

Michele Higgs: OK. Thank you much. We're going to welcome the following centers; they're new to the neighborhood. There are four this month. There's Westwick Apartments Learning Center in Mississippi, River Towers Senior Learning Center in Michigan, Wesley Highland Meadows in Tennessee, and Shawnee Learning Center in Kentucky. Welcome, all of you, to the neighborhood.

I want to introduce our speakers but since we have one missing, I'm going to switch the order in which I was going to introduce them. The first speaker we'll have is Morris Autry, who is director of the Community Development Program at Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina.

While working in the field of community development he has worked extensively with rural communities in eastern North Carolina. His primary focus has been on managing housing services and related community development block grant activity.

Also, while with the university, he has been responsible for coordinating homebuyer seminars, and providing technical assistance in housing counseling services for prospective homebuyers. Mr. Autry is a graduate of North Carolina Central University and holds a Masters Degree in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan. He's a member of a North Carolina Low-Income Housing Coalition.

He comes to us today, because he was very much a part of a partnership with the Herrington Villages Computer Center in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and hopefully, he'll be able to bring some insight on how that partnership came to be and how it worked. Mr. Autry, do you want to begin?

Morris Autry: Yes, thank you and good afternoon to everyone. Elizabeth City is a very small town in rural Northeastern North Carolina with a population of about 25,000 residents. Elizabeth City State University is a historically and predominantly African American university, with an enrollment of

approximately 2,500 students. Our university has been involved in the HUD program since about 1988, when we were a technical assistance provider with HUD's Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program.

We first learned about the Neighborhood Networks program from a professor in our Math and Computer Science department, who had received a grant from NASA to provide computer training for public school teachers.

Since she knew we were actually involved with the HUD programs, and that computers were becoming increasingly important in all phases of our lives, she suggested we look into this Initiative. So after receiving the information from the math and science professor, we decided it did make a lot of sense, because there was a HUD-assisted housing development directly across the street from the university.

At about the same time we heard from the math and computer science professor, we were approached by the resident manager of Herrington Village, Clennie Banks. Ms. Banks was also a graduate of Elizabeth City State University and she convinced us that the university should indeed partner with her in the Village on this effort.

One of the things she mentioned to us was that in her office the children in the complex were constantly coming to her and asking: "Can I use your computer? Can you help me do my homework?" And she would sometimes stop what she was doing and help them, but she realized she could not continue to do this.

So, that's why she thought the idea of a computer center, or Neighborhood Networks center, was an excellent idea for her organization. With this in mind, we decided that a Neighborhood Networks project, which at that time was very publicized by HUD, was a top Initiative that HUD wanted Universities to get into.

So we decided that we would put that into our next HUD HBCU Grant. That's Historically Black College Universities Grant, because it was a special program that HUD has for historically black colleges. And we put the grant together, it was successful and we began our involvement with Neighborhood Networks in 1999.

I believe one of the reasons that we were successful, was because Herrington Village Apartments was very committed to the project. They committed to converting one of their apartments into a Neighborhood Networks Center. And we used that as leverage for the grant.

Once the center was completed, the university used their grant funds to purchase and install computer hardware and software, networking for the hardware and to purchase computer furniture. University technicians in our academic computer center, and our telecommunications department, were instrumental in installing and setting up the equipment.

The University also provided for developing the computer courses once the project was set up. We put together beginner courses, intermediate courses, and advanced courses, because the degree of people's knowledge about computers was very wide spread. So we had to have three different classes.

The classes were taught by university students, who were majoring in Math and Computer Science, who were recommended by their professors. Also, once the persons took the classes, the university awarded those participants with continuing education units. Although they did not get academic credit, they did get a certificate saying they had taken the class.

We have residents of all ages taking the classes, from age 16 to one lady who was in her 80's. It's interesting that the lady, who was in her 80's, had her son purchase her a computer so she could continue learning once she completed the class.

The things that made this a successful project are the close proximity between the university and Heritage Village. As I stated before, the Heritage Village complex is right across the street from the university. That, and the commitment of Ms. Banks, the apartment manager, to convert an apartment into a Neighborhood Networks Center helped make this a successful project. She had permission from HUD and the property owners that they actually committed to do this.

Also, not only the HBCU staff, with whom I work, but also other personnel from the university, as I stated before, the math and computer science professors, the persons in our academic computer center, as well as the person who put together our telephone lines and network our computers made this project successful.

They all agreed that they would volunteer their time to do this for Herrington Village as well. Also, the commitment of our class instructors and the students themselves were very eager to transfer their knowledge to students at Herrington Village Apartment Complex.

Most of what we dealt with was the actual computer classes although the center does a lot of other things, which Ms. Banks could tell you if she was here with us today. They are involved with a lot of programs through cooperative extension, nutrition programs; we're involved with homebuyer education programs with them, and a lot of other activities ongoing in the center.

Other things we've done include sponsoring activities to Neighborhood Networks Week, essay contests, other activities as well. We did a kids computer camp for a two-week period where we had kids in the summer that would come to the center for a half day for two weeks.

The best advertisement that we can get for the center was the actual residents themselves because they will tell other residents about what was going on and all the classes were

overbooked. Also, word of mouth got out, so we had people from other communities saying, "I'm not a resident of Herrington Village, can I take your class, or can I come to the center?"

In terms of the advantages of working with Neighborhood Networks Center for the university, I think that it's very important because it gives the university a chance to give back to the community. Now that's a community that we are concerned about, what's going on in that community and that we are a good neighbor.

Also, as I said before, the students who taught the classes, some of them got academic credit as well, and so, they can use that as experience that they had before they actually graduated from college. They actually were working and teaching other students how to use computers.

Any other questions that I can answer at this time?

Michele Higgs: Mr. Autry, you have covered the waterfront, quite frankly. It sounds like a phenomenal pairing there. It seems like all of the possible pieces that we would hope to come together did, in this particular partnership. You know, you had a center director who was committed and enthusiastic and working hard to make things go.

You had residents who were interested and the university, of course, that came in with its volunteers and its programs. I just want to comment that it sounds like a wonderful program. I've been taking tons and tons of notes. A couple of the things that you mentioned are things that we talk about as we go around the country working with centers, in terms of helping them to pair up and encouraging them to pair up with universities.

The student population is a serious resource for them. If the students can come in and gain experience that they can take with them after graduation, it's a plus, a win, win, all together. Let me see if Jennifer has any questions for you.

Jennifer Brower: Yes, Mr. Autry, thank you very much for sharing, what you shared earlier. I was wondering if you could touch on the HBCU Grant that you had applied for? Now, was that through the Office of University Partnerships and how was it that you found out about this grant?

Morris Autry: OK, we've been involved with HUD's Office of University Partnerships, I guess, even before the university partnership office was formed. At first, HUD had a program for HBCU, and they eventually formed Office of University Partnership, which includes HBCU programs, Hispanic serving programs, and other programs as well.

However, we have been successful in getting those grants, prior to having knowledge of the Neighborhood Networks Initiative. So, when it came to renewing the grant it was easy to include Neighborhood Networks as one of the components. It was kind of easy to fit it into our activities.

Michele Higgs: OK. One more thing. Let me just stop here, if I may, and check with Anthony to see if our other speaker has signed in. Anthony?

Operator: She has not as of yet, ma'am, no.

Michele Higgs: OK. Fine. Mr. Autry, you've got it. I think we have another question for you from Jennifer, though.

Jennifer Brower: Yes, Mr. Autry, you were saying that before the Office of University Partnerships actually came into existence, you were still; the university was still using the HUD HBCU program.

Morris Autry: Right, actually, the HUD Historically Black College and Universities program is actually older than the Office of University Partnerships.

Jennifer Brower: OK, I see. I see. And can I ask each year; is it necessary for you to renew the grant?

Morris Autry: Right. These are yearly grants, and one of the reasons we've been successful is because we've gotten the grants three years in a row.

Jennifer Brower: OK.

Morris Autry: Each year we add a Neighborhood Networks component to our application.

Jennifer Brower: So do you feel as though the Neighborhood Networks component has definitely assisted you in actually getting this grant every single year, through the Office of University Partnerships?

Morris Autry: I think it definitely has, because one thing we can do is when you are applying next year, you can show what has already been accomplished, and a benefit it has added to your community. So you can say that we trained 50 students who are now out working as a result of getting the skills they needed.

Michele Higgs: So it builds and builds and builds.

Morris Autry: Right. However, there have been some challenges though. I wouldn't want to say there has not been. That challenge is with most programs, which is trying to sustain it at the level that you started out with. It's still that we need additional resources. We really need a full-time manager coordinator, which we really don't have.

Ms. Banks, who is the manager of the facility, has done a very good job in using her time and her assistant's skills to, kind of, carry out the activities on an ongoing basis. But really, if you have a full-time person, it would be even better.

Michele Higgs: This is good for our centers to hear because in a number of instances, we have Neighborhood Networks Centers that are run by the property managers and they're wearing a number of hats and have a number of responsibilities, which is one of the reasons that Ms. Banks couldn't be with us today.

She was just inundated and couldn't join us, but in her absence, what I'd like to do is read a piece about your partnership that we came across in the Network News, which is a publication of Neighborhood Networks. There were a couple of pieces here that I thought were very interesting for our listeners to hear.

These are quotes from Ms. Banks that say, "Make sure you have a space commitment from management before you ask for the University's assistance." She says that she's convinced the property owner to take the apartment off line to house a computer center, which is what you mentioned earlier in your section.

Morris Autry: Right.

Michele Higgs: She also says, "In our case, the management was supportive, they realized that a computer center would be a drawing card to get good families." One of the things we talk about with our property owners is the benefit of having a Neighborhood Network Center on the property because it is an amenity. It is a definite plus to have a computer center for residents to use.

She continues to say in this article that when the program space was available, then she was ready to speak with you. So, once she had the space,, then she was ready to come to the university. This piece is really quite good in that it discusses the whole partnership with Elizabeth City State University and Herrington Villages Computer Center, and I direct folks to the Neighborhood Networks Web site, to locate it if they want to read anymore about it.

Morris Autry: Right, although we used the grant funds to purchase new computers, the university itself though, could have been an asset even if they had donated some of their older computers that they were not using. So, if the university you pick to partner with does not have a grant, it may still have resources that it can be give to you.

In terms of computers, they may not be necessarily old, because universities try to stay on top of technology, and so the computers may only be two years old, and they may decide to give them away. So, this may be something you might want to look into.

Michele Higgs: You just read my mind, because, I was about to ask the question, how would you recommend that Neighborhood Networks Centers work with universities or look to universities for resources? You know, as you say, the universities turn their computers over a lot more quickly, because they want to stay on top of the new technology, so what seems old to them, might be spanking new to a Neighborhood Networks Center.

Morris Autry: Right, the center may want to approach the university in several ways. If you know someone at the university, in a higher office you might want to contact him or her first, to give you a lead. Most universities will have a community service component somewhere at the university. It may be at different places, at different universities but most will have some kind of community service component.

Talk with that person about what they can do to maybe assist the residents at your housing complex.

Michele Higgs: One question left for me. Who would you think, now I know you said a high-ranking official at the university? Are we talking the provost? Where would we start if we don't automatically see a community service division?

Morris Autry: I would probably start maybe with the dean, wherever the math and computer science department is.

Michele Higgs: Yes.

Morris Autry: A lot of times the dean may know more about what's available than the provost, the provost can make it happen but the dean may know what we have in inventory, or who our best students are, who our best faculty are that may be willing to provide the community service.

Michele Higgs: OK, sounds good. Anything else Jennifer?

Jennifer Brower: Yes, Michelle, actually I just wanted to add, unfortunately one of our speakers couldn't be here due to inclement weather, but I wanted to give just a little bit of background on the Office of University Partnerships for those of you that are not familiar with it.

This is a HUD program, and in 1994, HUD established the Office of University Partnerships in an effort to encourage and expand the growing number of partnerships formed between college and universities and their communities.

The Office of University Partnerships, also known as OUP, recognizes the crucial role collaborations and partnerships play in addressing local problems as well as revitalizing our nation's communities.

Some key areas that OUP strives to support in providing funding opportunities to colleges and universities is to implement community activities that revitalize neighborhoods and address economic development in housing issues as well as encourage partnerships.

The OUP also encourages a dialogue, creating dialogues between colleges and universities and communities to provide knowledge and support of partnership activities and opportunities as well as connecting them to other potential partners and resources.

Last, the OUP encourages assisting and producing the next generation of urban college and professionals who are focused on housing and community development issues. As Mr. Autry had mentioned earlier, one of the programs that OUP offers is the grant program called the HBCU,- for Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Under the OUP there are also other grant programs such as Hispanic-Serving Institutions Assisting Communities, also known as HSIAC, Tribal Colleges and Universities Program also known as TCUP and the Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian Institution's Assisting Communities, ANNHAC.

Morris Autry: Also I wanted to add that typically the grant announcements for those programs will come out probably in the HUD Super NOVA within the next month or so and typically the grant application will be due around the end of May or middle of June.

What you can do if you are interested in participating or bringing that initiative to your university, is to contact them early because most of the universities are all ready planning what they're going to write in their applications in June.

So, if you want to be a part of that initiative, you need to contact them as soon as possible so that they have time to think about how they can add that initiative to their application.

Michele Higgs: That sounds like good information for our centers. I'm going to stop now, Mr. Autry and give you a rest and I will check with Anthony to see if our other speaker has arrived.

Operator: She has not ma'am, no.

Michele Higgs: No? OK. In that case, if I may, I'd like to open up the lines for questions then. Anthony, can you let me know if there's anyone on the line there?

Operator: It's star one for questions; star one for questions at this time. And we'll go first to Brian Franke please go ahead.

Brian Franke: Hi, we would like to get some information about tracking and evaluation. How do you track your successes, Mr. Autry, how have you been able to track your successes? Do you have any more information about the urban fellows program?

Morris Autry: OK, I can answer the first part of that question. Of course, everybody who takes our classes fills out a contact sheet. What we try to do is maybe every six months follow up, to see how the classes have benefited them or how the network center has benefited them and then we document it that way.

We have had some persons who have identified that after taking the classes they were able to get jobs or pay increases as teacher's aides because the public schools will require that they know a little something about computers in order to be a benefit to their classrooms.

Several persons taking our classes as opposed to actually going to a community college and paying a fee would take our classes because they felt more comfortable in their resident neighborhood taking the classes and they were able to increase their skills and get better paying jobs.

Michele Higgs: OK, excellent.

Morris Autry: One of the things I did not say was that with our classes we only charged a very nominal fee. I think it was \$10 and that was based just to cover their continuing education unit. The university paid for all the other expenses related to the classes as well as paying the instructors.

Michele Higgs: Just to follow up on the last question, the tracking of the student's programs. That's largely done by the university; is that information shared with the center?

Morris Autry: Somewhat. Now we're tracking only the ones that were in the classes. Other activities that are ongoing in the center, of course we're not tracking that. We're only tracking the persons who are actually in the classes.

Michele Higgs: I see, I got it. Does that take care of the question? I think they're gone. Anthony do we have anyone else?

Operator: We do ma'am we'll take our next question from Delores Pruden, please go ahead.

Delores Pruden: Hello everyone this is Delores Pruden, Director of Neighborhood Networks, I first wanted to say hello to Morris and to thank him for joining in on this call today.

Morris Autry: Thank you, hello.

Delores Pruden: Hello. Morris and I worked together when I coordinated the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program for HUD. Everything he said is so important. Ever since I have been in this job, I have emphasized that there should be a relationship between Neighborhood Networks centers and the colleges and universities in their communities.

Many colleges and universities have received grant funds through HUD's SuperNOFA process to do community development work. Morris made a good point about the deadline for SuperNOFA applications

being very close this year meaning that there may not be enough time for a center to develop a relationship with a college or university that would encourage it to include the center in the grant proposal. But because the SuperNOFA is an annual opportunity, Neighborhood Networks centers can start to build a relationship that may result in them being included in future years. Whether or not a college or university is involved with HUD, Neighborhood Networks centers should seek a partnership with them because of their enormous resources.

Morris is one of the first persons who, from the beginning, seized upon the opportunity to develop this kind of partnership. And as he said and we say all the time, a relationship of this nature helps the colleges and universities too because it is important for them to demonstrate in their grant proposals how they will use the funds to help their community.

The HUD grant funds have been good for colleges and universities because these funds allow them to contribute significantly to the betterment of their community which improves their image with the people who live there. Many times, before these grants were available, colleges and universities were not involved in their communities and were looked upon as being elitist when the real reason for their non-involvement was the lack of funding. HUD has made available for many years these grant funds and colleges and universities have made all kinds of improvements and developed beneficial relationships with community residents who now view the colleges and universities in a different light. So when a Neighborhood Networks center goes to them and talks about what they do and what their needs are, it is just another avenue for the college or university to become involved in the community. I ditto everything that Morris said.

I don't know what happened to my colleagues today, it is snowing/sleeting and HUD was dismissed early. I think that they may have left with the intention of joining the call from another location. Since they are not on the phone, I thought that I would join on HUD's behalf to emphasize the importance of establishing relationships between Neighborhood Networks centers and colleges and universities. Thank you very much.

Michele Higgs: Thank you Delores, you don't know how much we appreciate your comments. They were very clear and they bring it all home actually.

Delores Pruden: Thank you.

Jennifer Brower: Anthony, do we have anyone else on the line?

Operator: As a reminder that's star one if you if you would like to ask a question at this time. We'll go next to Prince Obiri-Mainoo; please go ahead.

Prince Obiri-Mainoo: Yes, hello my name is Prince and I'm in charge of two computer learning centers here in the city of Worcester, Massachusetts. My question is going to either Jennifer or Michele.

I'm trying to locate the Office of University Partnerships and I'm on the site right now and there isn't any indication and there isn't any link on the server as to, I mean, the OUP site. So, if you could help me try to locate that...

Morris Autry: I can answer that for you. It's www.oup.org.

Prince Obiri-Mainoo: Oh OK, that's very simple, thank you very much.

Michele Higgs: There you go. Thank you very much Morris, thank you Prince. Anthony have we anyone else on the line?

Operator: It would appear that we have no further questions on the phone Ms. Higgs.

Michele Higgs: OK, Prince has brought up a good point. The link for OUP is its own: www.oup.org will give you pages of information about OUP and their programs. Again, Anthony, have we heard from our other caller?

Operator: We have not as of yet, ma'am, no.

Michele Higgs: OK, well as Delores mentioned it is inclement weather here and DC gets in trouble when a little snow falls, so she may be en route to a phone or perhaps has just decided to stay put. Jennifer have you any other questions for our speaker?

Jennifer Brower: I just wanted to add one other thing Michele. Regarding the Office of University Partnerships Web site. When you do get a chance to go to www.oup.org, O-R-G, you'll be able to find very interesting publications at this Web site that will explain how to partner with community organizations, local universities, how to go about doing that, how to set up the partnership meetings.

There are some very good technical assistance manuals that will also provide you with information about what a successful grant looks like as well. There's also a grantee database that is updated regularly on the OUP Web site, which will provide you where grants have been distributed with which universities in that local area.

So, for example if you live in Alabama, you can go on this grantee database and you can look to see where all the funds have been distributed by OUP to which universities in the state of Alabama.

This is also very helpful in locating which local universities can assist you in writing a grant together. Also technical assistance is provided in putting together a successful grant application as well.

Michele Higgs: OK, thanks Jennifer. I just have a couple of more comments and I'll ask Mr. Autry, have you any other comments, sir?

Morris Autry: Just something about resources. I think it's important to look at as many resources as you can and what we've also done is we've looked at, of course, the small businesses in our area for the grants or services as well as the computer companies or cable companies.

We've just recently received some funding to the university to support Neighborhood Networks, and that grant came through Verizon.

Michele Higgs: OK, thank you. I have just a couple of more things that I've come across in this Network News piece that I've looked at and one of the pieces mirrors, what Delores just said to us about developing relationships.

It starts out with: "How do you implement a program on a limited budget? And the response is with a lot of outreach and a little determination; it's not as hard as you think." By forming partnerships and utilizing volunteers, you'll be able to provide more high quality services with limited paid onsite staff.

Developing relationships with local organizations and government agencies is fundamental to implementing successful programs at Neighborhood Networks centers. I think that's the bedrock of what we've been talking about today.

Developing really good relationships with your local college or university; doing what you can to utilize what can be offered and bringing to the table what you have, which is your enthusiasm, your site, your people.

A lot of times, as Mr. Autry said, word-of-mouth will carry services at your center beyond the borders of your property into the community. This just makes things so much larger and so much better for that community.

It appears that we're not going to have our last speaker; I really hope she's doing OK out there. I think we might close down a few minutes earlier if there are no more questions. Anthony is there anyone else on the line today?

Operator: There are no further questions on the phone ma'am.

Michele Higgs: OK, Jennifer any other questions from you? I thank you all first of all for joining us and Mr. Autry I thank you so much for being with us as the lone horse today.

Morris Autry: It was a pleasure, thank you.

Michele Higgs: Thank you so very much and in these last few minutes since we have no more questions, I want to give you a news flash and that is that Congress recently extended Daylight Savings Time in the U.S. by one month.

So, this year we will "spring forward" on Sunday March 11th, so be sure to set your clocks so that you don't miss next month's conference call on Tuesday, March 13, 2007 at 3:00 pm and this will be a national roundtable discussion on workforce development.

We will gather residents, center staff, and partners that have worked together to create successful workforce development programs to give you the benefit of their experiences. Participants will be encouraged to ask questions as the call develops.

This will be a very different and exciting format and I do hope you will join us. I want to remind you of the resources that are available to you through the Neighborhood Networks Initiative.

Aside from the Neighborhood Network's Information Line which is 888-312-2743, you can find numerous resources and information on the Neighborhood Networks Web site at www.neighborhoodnetworks.org and I also remind you of the discussion line which you will find on the Web site on the right under the green banner and you can check it out and post your questions or your comments.

I have two great events to remind you about with Neighborhood Networks. You may have received your Save-the-Date postcard for this year's national training conference, which we will host in Washington DC from August 8 through 10,,2007 and then of course there's a Neighborhood Networks Week from June 25 through 30. I'm giving you plenty of advanced notice. So, we expect even greater things during Neighborhood Networks Week, this year. And if you have any questions about either of these special events, you may ring The Neighborhood Networks Information Line at 888-312-2743 and they can set you on the right path.

Again, Mr. Autry, I thank you so much for joining us. I thank all of our participants for joining us today. I hope the weather improves for everybody and we'll talk to you next time. Take good care.

Male: Thank you.

Female: Thank you.

Operator: This does conclude today's conference. We thank you for your participation. You may disconnect your line at any time; have a nice day.

END