

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 6, 2009

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BECKLEY BUSINESSES INVITED TO EXPLORE CORPORATE VOLUNTEERISM WITH FIRST LADY

Beckley, W.Va. - Businesses, organizations and individuals in the Beckley area have an opportunity to gain insight on the importance of volunteerism as a key business strategy by attending the upcoming Beckley Business Volunteerism Luncheon on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at the Beckley-Raleigh County Convention Center.

First Lady Gayle Manchin, along with state and local representatives, will address the significance of corporate community involvement as a means of moving West Virginia's communities forward. Local businesses will speak about the role and worth of volunteerism in their companies. The free luncheon, sponsored by the Beckley-Raleigh County Chamber of Commerce, Beckley Area Foundation and local corporate sponsors, is an initiative of the West Virginia Business Volunteer Council. The meeting and luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Marketing research has shown the public image benefits of volunteerism are priceless for business. Communities thrive when every sector – government, private, and nonprofit – does its part, making communities better places to live, work, and do business.

Those interested in attending are encouraged to RSVP October by 23 by contacting the Beckley-Raleigh County Chamber of Commerce at (304) 252-7328, (877) 987-3847, or @brccc.com. For more information, please contact Emily Schoen at (304) 558-0111, .r.schoen@wv.gov, or visit .volunteerwv.org.

The West Virginia Business Volunteer Council (BVC) is a statewide initiative open to all private sector businesses, labor organizations, nonprofit organizations, and business and professional associations. The BVC is the way for the private sector to join government and non-profits in building a better West Virginia through volunteer service. The BVC is a primary resource for encouraging, educating, and connecting businesses that support employee volunteer programs as a business strategy.

The BVC is a program of Volunteer West Virginia, the state's Commission for National and Community Service, which provides critical administrative resources, guidance, and support, in addition to access to hundreds of non-profit agencies in the Mountain State through [.volunteerwv.org](http://volunteerwv.org). To learn more about the West Virginia Business Volunteer Council, visit [.volunteerwv.org](http://volunteerwv.org).

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