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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WHEELING BUSINESSES INVITED TO EXPLORE CORPORATE VOLUNTEERISM WITH FIRST LADY

Wheeling, W.Va. - Businesses, organizations and individuals in the Wheeling area have an opportunity to gain insight on the importance of volunteerism as a key business strategy by attending the upcoming Wheeling Business Volunteerism Luncheon on Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at Wheeling Jesuit University.

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 luncheon is an initiative of the West Virginia Business Volunteer Council and is planned locally with support from the Wheeling Chamber of Commerce and Wheeling Jesuit University. The meeting and luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The luncheon is provided to participants at no cost. BVC initiatives are sponsored by Verizon, Dominion, Allegheny Energy, AEP Appalachian Power and local corporate sponsors.

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 by March 19 by contacting the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce at (304) 233-2575, or

[@wheelingchamber.com](mailto:emily.schoen@wv.gov). For more information, please contact Emily Schoen at (304) 558-0111, r.schoen@wv.gov, or visit [.volunteerwv.org](http://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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