

Gathering may draw 300 'pros' to Hutch

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Gov. Parkinson also to attend summit of young professionals.

By Edie Ross - The Hutchinson News - eross@hutchnews.com

Hutchinson is about to get a lot younger - at least temporarily.

Next month, young professionals from around the state will come to Hutchinson by the carload for the first-ever Kansas YP Summit, which is being organized by the Young Professionals of Reno County.

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Plans for the event, which will be April 15 at the Grand Prairie Hotel and Convention Center, are still being finalized.

But organizers know enough of the details to be certain that the summit is worth getting excited about.

For example, the speaker list features some heavy hitters, including Kansas' own Gov. Mark Parkinson and Cecily Drucker, daughter of the late Peter Drucker, whom many considered the greatest management thinker of the last

century.

Organizers expect 300 young professionals to attend the summit.

"Our goal is to bring Kansas together," said Jessica Miller, YP Reno County membership chair. "We hope events like this will provide us, as we grow and mature in our fields, with a sense of who each other are so that when we meet again on different sides of the political aisle or an issue or on boards and commissions, that there will be a sense of trust and ability to work together."

Bringing Kansas together

In 2008, YP Reno County played host to a YP gathering at the Kansas State Fair with the goal of meeting other young professionals across the state. From there, they set a goal of creating some type of event to bring young Kansans together.

That goal became more specific after several Reno County YP members attended the Greater Omaha Young Professionals Summit last year.

"We learned a lot there and wanted to do something similar here," Miller said. "We've worked on defining what we could afford to do and what we wanted it to look like."

Most of their direction came from feedback from young professionals around the state.

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: 3/5/2010

OK. How young is 'young'. And what do you mean by 'professionals'?

-J. Hoener

Young Professionals : 3/6/2010

YP is an organization set up by people that are out of college/around that age group that meet to network and build connections and share ideas to better their personal and professional lives. Go to the site and you can learn all about it. www.ypkansas.com.

-A young professional

suggestions.... : 3/7/2010

Incorporate bonds to upgrade the airport...no one wants to fly into Wichita to drive to Hutch, not now or in the future. Zone land for a professional office/park type location, this will draw interest from professional-minded people, because environment is critical. No one wants to look out of their office window and see a grain elevator, so I would plan this north/west. Ensure infrastructure is in place, highways, bus system, mid-high end condo's, and last but not least, entertainment for the masses. Without the necessities....it's all just paper and dialogue, a pipe dream. Hutch needs to spend money to be recognized as a player.

-Ben There

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"We asked what they wanted to learn and whether they really would come and then really framed the summit from there," Miller said, adding that breakout sessions would cover a variety of topics including personal and professional development, financial planning, volunteerism and how to develop and sustain a young professionals organization.

Cecily Drucker, who will fly in from San Francisco, will lead a session on strategies for starting a new business.

"She told me a little about what she's going to talk about and it is very impressive," Miller said.

Drucker has a lot of experience as an entrepreneur. She owns her own business and also has worked both as a transactions lawyer and as an advisor to software startups.

"We are very excited that she's coming," Miller said. "We actually were able to get her because one of our members knows her family. Her attendance will definitely help us market this event to the entire state."

Marci Penner, executive director of the Kansas Sampler Foundation, also will lead sessions, speaking both on how rural communities can start a young professionals organization and the importance of preserving the rural fabric of Kansas.

Sessions on civic engagement will be led by the Kansas Leadership Center and there also will be question-and-answer sessions in which participants can seek insight from a panel of YP organization leaders.

Details

The Kansas YP Summit will kick off on the evening of April 14 at a private reception at The W. The next day will start with a welcome at 8:30 a.m., followed by a day full of breakout sessions, and Gov. Parkinson's presentation over lunch.

Summit participants will be encouraged to stay in Hutchinson that evening to participate in the monthly Third Thursday event and the quarterly Taste It downtown event.

Tickets will be \$50 for those not participating in Taste It and \$65 for those who are participating. Tickets just to Gov. Parkinson's lunchtime presentation will be sold to the general public for \$25. Ticket registration is available at www.ypkansas.com.



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