

## Views on local job needs wanted

By Sean F. Driscoll

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An Illinois work force and economic development group is kicking off a statewide series of town hall meetings in Rockford to get input on its advocacy priorities.

Illinois Works for the Future is teaming with the Rockford Jobs Council, the Rockford Area Economic Development Corp. and the Workforce Investment Board to hold the Sept. 23 forum. The two-hour session will largely be small group brainstorming and discussion to identify the region's short- and long-term needs, challenges and opportunities for economic development and job training.

"We think the community meetings will give us the best source of information on what the local needs are," said Steve Simmons, statewide policy associate with the Chicago Jobs Council.

Illinois Works for the Future is a campaign created by the Chicago Jobs Council, the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability and the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law to work with private and public partners statewide to integrate work force and economic development.

The forum's steering committee is sending out invitations to economic and community leaders, but anyone interested in work force development issues is welcome to attend.

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### **If you go**

The Illinois Works for the Future forum is from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Sept. 23 at EIGERlab, 605 Fulton Ave. Anyone involved in work force development issues is invited.

To RSVP, contact Trudy Wellman at the Workforce Investment Board by Wednesday at 815-395-6638 or [twellman@theworkforceconnection.org](mailto:twellman@theworkforceconnection.org).