

Reasons YOUR Company Should Attend the Duncan Area Job, Career & Entrepreneurship Expo

For the past few years, the Duncan Area Economic Development Foundation has sponsored a Job & Career Fair for individuals looking for new opportunities. Hosting an event like this requires the cooperation of many entities. These partners are the area businesses, schools and citizens. Below is a list of reasons for attending this year's Duncan Area Job, Career & Entrepreneurship Expo at the Simmons Center on March 23.

Companies- The Duncan area is fortunate to have great companies. It is vital that our local businesses attend this event to share what their company does by way of products they manufacture or services they provide. This will help the youth and citizens better understand the type of jobs available or skills needed to perform these jobs. We have area companies looking to hire individuals with certain skills. At the same time we understand that not all businesses are in the process of hiring, but instead they are planting seeds for future development. To accommodate companies' busy schedules, the job fair will take place from 7am-1pm.

Seminars- As an added feature, we will have special seminars to educate job seekers on enhancing their marketable skills. At selected times during the day, we will have programs on writing resumes, interviewing skills, starting your own business and continuing education. These seminars will be put on by Workforce Oklahoma, Red River Technology Center and Cameron University. The goal is to deliver the very best in helping our job seekers with their future opportunities.

FREE to Attend- Putting an event like this together has associated costs. The Duncan Area Economic Development Foundation Board of Directors sees the importance of helping the community and our businesses grow. Therefore, this is FREE for both the business to have a booth and for citizens looking for careers.

Engineering Contest- For the past two years, Richard's Manufacturing and DAEDF have hosted two contests for our area youth. As a result of the event going so well in its initial years, we have decided to continue investing in our youth with these competitions. For the Engineering contest, students will create a CO₂ dragster to race against others. Our foundation purchased the kits which contain a balsa wooden block, axles, wheels and all the necessary instructions to complete the task. While carving the body for the car, students will learn and apply knowledge in overall weight, measurement, aerodynamics, balance and functionality. The cars will race from 12:30-2:30pm in time trials and elimination rounds to see who has the fastest dragster. A "people's choice" contest will also be held to judge the most "attractive" car.

Entrepreneurship Contest- Much like the engineering contest, we want our youth to be business savvy. It is our understanding that many of the youth will become entrepreneurs. Therefore, having a contest where they write a business plan for a potential venture will challenge them in the application of math, writing and creativity. The rules and information for both contests can be found on our website listed below.

Money- Prize money will be given to the winners of the two contests. The winners will receive \$1,000 for 1st, \$600 for 2nd and \$300 for 3rd place. Students can compete as an individual or as teams in either contest. The only stipulation is that the area youth must be in 9th-12th grade within Stephens, Jefferson or Cotton Counties, or in the Red River School District.

Teacher Prizes- Teachers are over worked and under paid, and encouraging youth is what they love to do, but how can they fit it all in? To help add additional incentive and thank the teachers who encourage their students to participate in the two contests, a GRAND PRIZE of a one night stay at the Oklahoma State Park of their choice will be given to one teacher. In addition, the teacher with the most students participating will receive a one night stay at the Lindley House Garden Cottages.

Door Prizes- Every 30 minutes a door prize will be given to an EXPO attendee.

Team Thunder and Fun- Not only will there be model dragsters, but a life size dragster will be onsite. Team Thunder will demonstrate the engineering, aerodynamics, creativity and mechanics involved with racing and maintaining a dragster.

This is going to be a great event for our community, and we want you to be involved. Let us know if you are interested in participating in the Duncan Area Job, Career & Entrepreneurship Expo on March 23rd.

If you have questions, we can be contacted at the Duncan Area Economic Development Foundation office at 580-255-9675, or just send me an e-mail to jessika@ok-duncan.com. Additional information is also available on our website www.ok-duncan.com.