

July 28, 2011

Today's students are facing unparalleled challenges as they prepare to compete in the rapidly changing technological, global economy. Employers require a workforce with innovative, creative, problem-solving abilities to become globally competitive. This series is designed to bring educators, business and community members together to exchange thoughts and ideas around the educational issues facing the Rockford community.

The Northern Illinois Committee on Education (NICE) would like to personally invite you to participate in a "Dialogue for Change" Series to be held from 5:15 – 7:15 pm on Wednesday, September 28th, Wednesday, October 5th and Wednesday, October 12th at the Rock Valley College Learning and Opportunities Center, 308 West State in Rockford. Parking is available close to this location.

We will be discussing the following three questions:

1. How do schools and community impact each other?
2. What do we want graduates to know and be able to do?
3. How can we meet every student's needs?

A light meal will be provided each evening and trained facilitators will guide small dialogue groups. In order to ensure diverse representation, NICE will be inviting a representative group of forty people to participate in this initial dialogue.

If you are able to attend all three sessions and would like to be a participant, please complete a "Request to Participate" by **August 29, 2011**. The form is available at the website, www.niceconference.org or contact Chris at KIDS, 815-921-8474 for assistance.

Sincerely,

Northern Illinois Committee on Education