

**Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill
Community Partnerships
Diversity Coalition**



Diversity Creates Opportunity

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For Immediate Release

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**Preparing Students for the Work Force:
October 27 Symposium Convenes Community Business, Education and Service
Organization Leaders on Collaboration Opportunities**

Poughkeepsie, NY: A symposium on "Education and the Workforce" is scheduled for Thursday, October 27 from 8:30 AM to Noon at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education center at the FDR Historic Site on Route 9 in Hyde Park, NY. Participants will include leaders from area businesses, education and community service organizations, and interested members of the public. The program will focus on preparing high school students for the work force by better utilizing linkages with the business community and building collaborations. Round-table discussions will also address educational preparation for careers in science and technology and the health related fields. The meeting co-hosts are the Diversity Coalition of The Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill (ERVK), the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute (FERI), and the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board (DCWIB). The Poughkeepsie Journal/Gannett Foundation is sponsoring the meeting. ERVK's Community Partnership with Schools and Business (CPSB) program, which supports an innovative mentoring program, will be showcased. Reservations are required. Please RSVP by calling: (845) 454-8940 or emailing: sbusselle@ervk.org or agould@ervk.org. The nominal fee for refreshments and conference materials is \$25 per person.

Chris Breiseth, President of FERI, and Lorraine Roberts, co-chair of the NY State Department of Education's Standards Committee, retired teacher and ERVK Board member will provide an historic perspective and overview of the legacy of the 50 year-old "Brown vs. Board of Education" Supreme Court decision, striking down "separate but equal" education, and the recent "No Child Left Behind" legislation, which is straining both state and local budgets. Here, as throughout the nation, local businesses are seeking ways to serve an ever more diverse clientele, as well as, to prepare and train a more diverse workforce. Today, educators and businesses must join forces to help students find appropriate career paths and businesses find qualified workers. The October 27 symposium is planned as the first of a series of meetings that will address these complex issues that face our community. For further information, call (845) 454-8940.