

Intern Nebraska Program Focus of Thursday Presentation

(KTNC) -- Falls City area businesses can find out more about a program that aims to link businesses to interns during a presentation this coming week. Falls City EDGE is sponsoring the presentation on the Intern Nebraska program Thursday at Konstantino's Pizza in Falls City.

EDGE Executive Director Beckie Cromer says the Nebraska Legislature created the Intern Nebraska program in 2011, with the goal of matching college students with internships in the state of Nebraska.

Cromer says the legislature expanded the program this past year. It provides grants of up to \$5,000 to participating businesses. Businesses must pay at least minimum wage and provide an internship of sufficient duration to allow the student to gain work experience. Cromer says the business may be eligible for an additional grant of up to \$2,500 if the student is eligible for a Pell Grant.

In addition to the financial incentives, Cromer says the Intern Nebraska program also helps to connect businesses with potential employees, and helps students get their foot in the door at a business. Cromer says there is a need for welders, engineers, and mechanics in this area and Intern Nebraska could help businesses fill future positions. Most private businesses can participate, but the program is not open to government agencies and political subdivisions.

Representative from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development will be at Thursday's presentation along with representatives from two Falls City businesses that have participated in the program - Southeast Nebraska Communications and Merz Farm Equipment.

Thursday's Intern Nebraska program will be held from noon until 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided, and Cromer requests those who would like to attend contact EDGE by Monday so they can get an accurate count for lunch.

Contact EDGE at 402-245-2105 or email assistant@fallscityedge.com.