



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RAHALL TO CREATE SOUTHERN WV PROCUREMENT CENTER

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- Congressman Nick J. Rahall, II (D-WV) announced today he wants to create a Southern West Virginia Procurement Center, similar to one he assisted in developing in the Northern part of the Fourth Congressional District now located on Marshall University's campus.

Area development specialists and education leaders will join Rahall on Friday, December 8th at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the idea at Concord College. There will be a press conference immediately following the meeting at approximately 2:30 p.m.

"My vision for such a Center is two fold. First, businesses have to know what contracts are available from the federal government. The sooner they are aware, the more time they have to submit competitive bids. The Center will be able to match our businesses services and products with the needs of government agencies. Secondly, businesses which have no experience with procurement and lack the resources to hire a full time procurement specialist will need someone to walk them through the procurement maze step by step. The Center will provide this expertise." Rahall said.

"Government Procurement is an untapped market in West Virginia. Our businesses can compete with the best. This center will provide the necessary bootstrap to lift our State into a fully competitive arena." Rahall said.

On hand to attend the meeting will be:

- o Kit Lewis, McDowell County Clerk and Co-chairman of the Region VI Partnership for Progress Council.
- o Doug Maddy, Governor's Office of Community And Industrial Development.
- o Dr. Jerry Beasley, President, Concord College (host).
- o Dr. Gregory Adkins, President, Bluefield State College.
- o Robert Lilly, Interim President, Beckley College.
- o Dr. Douglas McChesney, Director of Development, Concord College.
- o Dr. Robert Bailey, Director of Vocational/Adult Education, Mercer County BOE.
- o J. Knox McConnell, President, First National Bank of Keystone and Co-chairman of Region VI Partnership for Progress Council.
- o Austin Caperton, Co-chairman of Region V Partnership for Progress Council.
- o Dr. James Cox, Director BSC Greenbrier Campus.
- o John Hunt, Executive Director, 4-C Economic Development Authority.
- o Adda Leah Davis, Executive Director, McDowell County EDA.
- o Janet Bailey, Executive Director, Mercer County EDA.
- o Charles Feller, President, Wyoming County EDA.
- o Norman Kirkham, Executive Director of the Region I Planning & Development Council.

All members of the Press and public interested are welcome to attend.

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