**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Leadership Eugene Springfield Task Force Champions Workplace Inclusion With Neurodiversity-focused Lunch & Learn**

Springfield, OR – 01 March 2024 – The Leadership Eugene Springfield Neurodiversity Task Force is proud to host a compelling Lunch & Learn event scheduled for April 5th, aimed at fostering more inclusive and innovative workplaces by helping employers better attract, recruit, and retain a neurodiverse workforce. This hybrid event will offer both in-person and virtual attendance options.

**Event Details:**

**Date:** April 5, 2024

**Location:** Springfield Chamber of Commerce, 101 A St, Springfield, OR

**Time:** 11:30 AM (In-person lunch), 12:00 PM (Panel Discussion)

**Format:** Hybrid (In-person & Virtual)

The event will feature a dynamic panel discussion led by Jane Kammerzelt from [Great Teams International](https://great-teams-international.com/), along with a diverse group of employers, HR professionals, and neurodivergent individuals. They will share insights and practical advice on supporting neurodivergent talent in the workplace.

Attendees will have the opportunity to engage directly with experts, gaining actionable strategies to enhance team performance and drive business success through diversity. The session promises to be an invaluable resource for business leaders, HR professionals, and anyone interested in fostering an inclusive work environment.

**Special Features:**

* Complimentary lunch sponsored by [Breakthrough Co Lab](https://breakthroughcolab.com/) for in-person attendees.
* Live broadcast of the panel discussion via Zoom for virtual attendees.
* Recording of the program emailed to all registrants post-event.

This event is part of the [Leadership Eugene Springfield](https://www.eugenechamber.com/leadership-eugene-springfield.html) (LES) 2023-24 cohort’s initiatives. The LES Neurodiversity Task Force, including members from [Eugene Education Foundation](https://eeflane.org/), [Hunter Communications](https://hunterfiber.com/), [Kernutt Stokes](https://www.kernuttstokes.com/), and [Breakthrough Co Lab](https://breakthroughcolab.com/), is committed to building awareness and educating local employers about the benefits of hiring neurodivergent employees. Without proper support, neurodivergent individuals face barriers that result in unmet potential, increased reliance on welfare, deepening social divides, continued stigma, and worsened mental health, all of which slow societal progress. By educating employers, we hope to increase support in our community.

**Registration:**

Interested participants are encouraged to register early as in-person space is limited. For more information and to register for the event, please visit <https://bit.ly/ndemployees>.

**Understanding Neurodiversity and Its Benefits to Employers:**

Neurodiversity encompasses the diverse range of human brain function, recognizing neurocognitive differences like autism, ADHD, and dyslexia as natural variations. Employing neurodivergent individuals offers businesses unique advantages, such as innovative thinking, enhanced problem-solving, and richer team diversity. By valuing neurodiversity, companies foster a more inclusive environment and leverage distinct talents that drive competitive advantage and business success.

**About Leadership Eugene Springfield (LES):**

Since 1986, Leadership Eugene-Springfield, backed by the local Chambers of Commerce, has aimed to develop civic leaders who advocate for the community and foster a healthy economy through synergy among government, business, and charities. The program enhances leadership skills and local issue awareness through monthly sessions, building a network among participants and presenters to positively shape Eugene/Springfield's future.

**About Springfield Chamber of Commerce:**

The Springfield Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to fostering a prosperous community by strengthening, representing, and promoting business in Springfield, Oregon. Through economic development, resource access, and advocacy, the Chamber works tirelessly to support local businesses and economic development.

**About Eugene Chamber of Commerce:**

The Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to driving economic opportunity and well-being in Eugene, Oregon, by serving as a catalytic leader for a vibrant and diverse economy. Embracing strategic innovation, inclusive engagement, and impactful actions, the Chamber strives to empower its members and the community at large, fostering positive change and collaborative solutions.

**Contact:**

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