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<p>Ribbon Cutting March 28th Technical Framework at 724 Whalers Way H101, Fort Collins at 4:30</p>	<p>Ribbon Cutting April 4th Rez Church at 6502 Cross Roads, Loveland at 4:30</p>	<p>Business After Hours April 6th Comfort Suites Loveland at 5:30</p> 
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NOCONET NETWORKING GROUP CONNECTS EMPLOYERS TO PROFESSIONAL TALENT POOL



“If you want to catch fish, you have to fish where the fish are!”

That familiar sales and marketing maxim has stood the test of time for good reason. For talent recruiters, it answers the question “Where can I find my best chance for success?”

NoCoNet, northern Colorado’s premier professional networking group, is the answer to that question for area employers who are seeking the best available talent in a hotly competitive recruitment market. Recruiters are looking for talented candidates and for creative ways to find them. They’ve discovered an ideal sourcing solution in NoCoNet.

Founded in 2004, NoCoNet is an all-volunteer networking organization that builds and maintains pathways connecting its highly-skilled members with area employers, all free of charge to both members and employers.

A few of the employer benefits offered by NoCoNet include:

- Job fairs twice annually that directly connect exhibitors with attending professionals.
- Speed interviews in a private room adjoining NoCoNet’s weekly meetings.
- Up-to-date job board and announcement of opportunities at the weekly meetings.

Again, all NoCoNet’s services are available at no charge to both members and employers.

The Spring NoCoNet Job Fair will be held April 24 at the site of its weekly Monday morning meetings, the Faith Evangelical Free Church at 3920 South Shields in Fort Collins. To be a part of this popular sourcing event, contact NoCoNet at employerliaison@noconet.org or visit their site at www.noconet.org.



LOCAL CELEBRITIES TAP INTO DANCING TO RAISE MONEY FOR YOUNG LEADERS By Mindy McCloughan

This year’s Dancing with the Stars participants will be kicking up their heels for young leaders April 15 during the Loveland Chamber of Commerce’s annual fundraising gala.

I started the event through the chamber in 2014 following the 2013 Front Range flood to support the chamber’s flood recovery grant program for area businesses affected by the flood—we raised \$50,000 that year. I brought the idea from Texas where I’d been one of the first star dancers in a similar program there and approached the chamber’s 2014 “Leadership Loveland” class about organizing this event as a class project.

The stars, often young or novice dancers who are local celebrities, will help extend Thompson School District’s Leader in Me program. The program, offered at Carrie Martin Elementary School, teaches the students leadership skills based on the late Dr. Stephen R. Covey’s “7 Habits of Highly Effective People.”

We continued the event in 2015 to benefit the Heart J. Center for Experiential Learning and Loveland Habitat for Humanity, nonprofits that have ties to the flood. Each year, we benefit a local cause with proceeds ranging from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

“Students are trained to be leaders from kindergarten on,” said Karen Fournier, president of Starstream Productions, LLC, which will provide videos leading up to the event to tell the stories of the local stars. “There’s a different aura in the school. Students are calm and self-directed.”

We chose the Leader in Me program as this year’s cause to further the idea of teaching students life-coping skills in addition to their regular academics. It’s proven to be a change agent in their lives and will make a difference in the community by eventually feeding into a better workforce development pipeline. We believe this program should be district-wide; however, we know we have to start with one school at a time.

The chamber created Dancing with the Stars from the Heart—it will be April 15 at Embassy Suites Loveland—as a black-tie affair complete with dinner, silent and live auctions, and, of course, dancing presented by four local celebrities paired with professional dancers.

Money is raised for each cause through sponsorships and ticket sales, plus sponsorships of the individual dancers that also cover the cost of 25 hours of dance lessons with a professional dancer.

The local celebrities will perform two choreographed routines in Latin or smooth styles, dancing for 1 ½ to 2 minutes, with one of the routines from a year that is memorable to them. The dance professionals also will collaborate for a group performance.

Fournier creates videos of behind the scenes of the dancers dancing and playfully challenging one another, a profile of each of the dancers about their memorable year, and a video about the impact of the Leader in Me program. The videos are meant to be explanatory and inspirational, she said.

The lineup of dancers includes Amber Jarvis, owner of SugarShine Cleaning; Paul Jansen, real estate agent with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage; Stan Scheer, superintendent of schools for Thompson School District; and Kathi Wright, director of the Boys & Girls Club of Larimer County.

“The videos add a lot of back story and meaning to the dance. You know why they’re dancing that dance,” Fournier said. “It’s formal and fun, and it kind of brings Hollywood to our own little town. It is a fun way for the community to get together and raise money for a great cause.”

“It sounded just like the ticket for me for feeling uplifted,” Wright said. “Ordinary people like us doing something extraordinary like ballroom dancing is a unique evening out.”

Tickets for the event, which will be 6-10 p.m., are \$80. For details, visit the chamber’s website at www.loveland.org.

The dancers will be judged with audience input by a panel of four celebrity judges, including one who will sit in a seat auctioned off to an audience member. Of course, there will be no losers because of the causes they support.

