

## **Education group supports Rally for kids**

Carrie Dillard / Advocate Editor

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Union County First Education First committee member Amy Hutchison wants you to spend one day for kids. In partnership with Northwest KY Forward (NWKF), the economic development foundation is rallying for support for the first ever Rally for Education Excellence symposium.

“This is a kickoff for the long-term initiative to support schools in our four districts,” said Katie French, newest employee of NWKF and Union County resident. The organization hopes to bring leaders and passionate community members from Union, Henderson, Webster and McLean counties together to establish community activist groups in each county and promote broad based support at all levels of education. “Even if you don’t have a student in (these) school systems, you have a stake in our schools—your tax dollars.”

“This is not about every child going to college,” French continued. “It’s about every child reaching their fullest potential. Education offers our students choices.”

The symposium will be held on March 21 at the Henderson Community College Fine Arts Center. Registration is from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. with the program following at 9 a.m. NWKF is planning a panel discussion with leaders from education, government, business and minority sectors, inspirational speakers and reports from superintendents of schools. There will be time for questions and answers from the audience, and free lunch is provided.

Hutchison and Union County First hope to see anywhere from 200 people from Union County attend. “Union County is ahead of the game (with a community activist group,” she said. The Union County First Education First committee has been established for over a year now, and this year they have added members from each school in the Union County School District and Superintendent Josh Powell to their roster. She encourages more individuals to join this effort. “Just like voting, one vote does make a difference. One person can make a difference in this endeavor,” she stated.

Union County will hold a follow-up meeting on March 31 at 7 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Building in Morganfield.

“Our schools are a reflection of the community,” said French. “There is more that we as a community can do to support change.”

Members of Union County First and representatives of Northwest KY Forward have visited the Union County Board of Education, the Union County Fiscal Court, local churches and civic organizations to get the word out about this event.

For more information, please call Northwest KY Forward at 270-826-7505 or email [info@rally4education.com](mailto:info@rally4education.com)