

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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Creativity and innovation will be sparked at upcoming local conference! Panhandle Safety & Wellness Conference & Awards Luncheon slated for September 12 at the Gering Civic Center

National motivational speaker, Scott Shellstrom, will be inspiring conference attendees to rediscover their ability for creativity and innovation. Scott's presentations will unite and excite teams to find unique solutions to everyday challenges.

As a former advertising executive, Scott knows that creativity is more than an art, it's a skill. His skills have placed him on some of New York City's most prominent improv comedy stages, and his paintings on some of the most prestigious gallery walls. He knows how to perform, both as a television host on the Travel Channel as well as the first white guy on Soul Train.

"It is exciting to bring such a high quality speaker line-up to the area," said Jessica Davies, Assistant Health Director and Co-Coordinator of the conference. "Businesses can use this opportunity to learn the latest strategies in keeping employees healthy and safe and it's a perfect location to not have to travel far as we are all crunched for time."

Jim Crowser with Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation and Nebraska Senator Sara Howard will be presenting on Addiction and Mental Health in the Workplace by providing information on ways to recognize potential risk factors, signs, symptoms for substance use and/or mental health challenges in the workplace. Methods for setting a supportive environment in the workplace and techniques for intervention with particular emphasis placed on opioid use and its impact on employee health.

Additional conference sessions will be offered on Dispelling Wellness Fads and Trends, an OSHA Update, and more! The awards luncheon will feature Panhandle businesses receiving the Governor's Wellness Award, safety awards, and the Leading Light Award to an individual nominated for leading the wellness charge at their worksite.

"We are honored to recognize a number of individuals and Panhandle businesses at the awards luncheon for their exemplary wellness programs and as champions leading wellness and safety," Davies added.

Area businesses should plan to bring their safety and wellness committees, managers, HR professionals, and any other employees for this exciting, local opportunity to learn something new. Early bird registration ends August 23 so people are encouraged to register early with

special discounts provided the more employees that are registered from a company. Keynote-only registrations are available.

The conference is coordinated by the Panhandle Worksite Wellness Council and the Nebraska Safety Council with sponsor organizations:

Gold Level –Panhandle Public Health District and Panhandle Partnership Training Academy

Silver Level – Chadron Community Hospital

Bronze Level – Panhandle Coop and Western Nebraska Community College

For additional information about worksite wellness, visit www.pphd.org/pwwc.html or call Davies at 308-487-3600 extension 101. The Panhandle Worksite Wellness Council is proudly part of Panhandle Public Health District. The Council specializes in supporting employers in the Panhandle region. We recognize that many employers support a diverse and remote workforce and offer innovative ways to overcome the challenge of working with a virtual team. We understand that many of our employers do not have full-time wellness resources and work to provide resources and training to make running a worksite wellness program as easy as possible.

Panhandle Public Health District is working together to improve the health, safety and quality of life for all who live, learn, work and play in the Panhandle. Our vision is that we are a healthier and safer Panhandle community.