

Hahn learns about county history, governmental agencies

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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Corbett Hahn didn't grow up in Dawson County.

So as a member of the Dawson Area Development Leadership class of 2011-12, the Holyoke, CO, native enjoyed learning about the county's history.

"I had no idea about the Henri Museum and how Cozad was founded," he said, noting that he thinks other class members who grew up in Dawson County also became familiar with history they didn't know.

Hahn, an insurance agent at The Home Agency, said he also liked touring Lake McConaughy and learning about the building of the reservoir by Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District.

"I didn't realize how many community members were instrumental in getting it done," he said.

In addition, Hahn said it was interesting to learn about the different governmental agencies in the county and how they work together.

DAD officials are organizing a new leadership class for 2012-13.

The leadership program is designed to motivate participants to develop and enhance the quality of their leadership skills in addressing pertinent community needs, whether it's in volunteer service or elected positions, according to DAD community development-leadership director Deb Jensen.

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Goals of the program are:

to develop an awareness of the Dawson area community, the problems, challenges and opportunities, by examining the major systems which contribute to the patterns of life in the area.

to develop leadership skills and qualities in participants which lead to creative and insightful community solutions

to ensure broad community future leadership by recruiting diverse participants who are emerging as leaders

to motivate and encourage participants to assume leadership roles in community affairs.

HOW TO APPLY
Application requests can be made by contacting the DAD office and must be received by Friday, June 29.
The DAD office is located at 1501 Plum Creek Parkway, Suite 205, Lexington, VA 24301.
For additional information, call 800-217-0600 or email info@dawsonaredevelopment.com.

Jensen said the DAD leadership advisory committee makes a conscious effort to select participants from the Dawson County area in terms of sex, race, age, occupation and community groups.

“Diverse participants generate good interaction and learning in the program,” she said.

Class size is limited to 20.

Participant selection is made by the leadership advisory committee on the basis of a written application and interview process.

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Non-refundable tuition for the 2012-13 program is \$225 per participant.

Meetings are monthly, beginning Sept. 5 and ending in May.

Topics include introduction and area history, quality of life, government/energy, education, health/human services, business/industry, agriculture, legal/law enforcement, water and a visit to the state legislature and prison.

This is the 20th year DAD has offered the leadership class.

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