Wednesday afternoon, May 16, Colorado Lt. Governor Joseph Garcia and some of his staffers will be in Sterling to host a community conversation on how K-12 and higher education are working together.

This free event, open to the public, will be held in Room 230 of Hays Student Center on the campus of Northeastern Junior College from 2-3 p.m.

Garcia will be posing specific questions to those in attendance regarding what kind of success has happened in this area in building programs and support between K-12 and higher education.

He will be asking for information about some of the specific struggles facing K-12 and higher education in northeastern Colorado and asking how the various levels of education work together to meet the needs of Spanish-speaking families.

According to the agenda provided, Garcia wants to know specifically the three biggest challenges to improving transitions for students between K-12 and higher education in this area of the state.

When it comes to remediation challenges and issues, what models are working well for NJC and students? What more can K-12 schools and the Department of Higher Education to do address these issues together?

Garcia also wants to know how K-12 and higher education out here in this part of Colorado work to improve professional development and support for teaching professionals.

Garcia will provide information to those who gather at this meeting on the challenges and issues facing the P20 Education Pipeline in Colorado. P20 is short for an integrated education system that extends from preschool through higher education.

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He plans to communicate about the role of the Department of Higher Education in Colorado and discuss education efforts at the state level regarding early literacy, Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K), educator effectiveness and TBD Colorado.

TBD Colorado is a nonpartisan, collaborative effort designed to create informed and constructive conversations among Coloradans about some of the biggest issues facing the state. TBD stands for To Be Determined.

Last but not least, Garcia and his staff will provide an overview of legislation on HB12-1238—The Colorado Early Literacy Act; HB 12-1155—Improvement in College Completion; SB12-045—Higher Education Associate Degree Transfer Students; and SB 12-164—Operations of Private Post-Secondary Colleges.

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