



For Immediate Release

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Community Event to Feature Speaker on 'Error Reduction'

OTTAWA, Kan. — Oct. 2, 2017 — The community is invited to a free event later this month featuring guest speaker Lt. Col. Dave Young.

The presentation, "Error Reduction: Why We Get Things Wrong," will be from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 19, at the Neosho County Community College Auditorium, 900 E. Logan St., Ottawa. The event, which is free and open to the public, is hosted by Leadership Franklin County, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and the Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce.

Young is the Director of Staff for the Kansas Air National Guard. In this role, he advises the Adjutant General and the Commander of the Kansas Air National Guard on all Air National Guard issues. He is responsible for the management of multiple statewide programs and the formulation of long-range plans and strategies for the 2,200 airmen in the 184th Intelligence Wing at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita and the 190th Air Refueling Wing at Forbes Field in Topeka.

"I've always been interested in why we make mistakes, but that interest was kicked into high gear when I was assigned to help the board investigating the 2003 loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia," Young said. "That assignment really opened my eyes to things like human performance, system complexity, risk management and leadership. Whether your team is launching spacecraft, performing surgeries or deciding how your office should address budget challenges, your ability to make high quality decisions and reduce errors is critically important."

The presentation will cover the basics of human performance, influencing factors and the design of tools used to reduce high-impact errors. It will include case studies of the human factors contributing to the Space Shuttle Columbia loss and the 1986 Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant disaster.

"I hope those in attendance walk away with a deeper understanding of why we make errors and how individuals and teams can reduce the chances of making errors," Young said.

The event is the first of three community presentations Leadership Franklin County will provide during the 2017-18 year. The next events are planned for January and April. LFC is a comprehensive nine-month program offered by the Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce.

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