

THE WEST VIRGINIA RURAL PARTNERS NETWORK FEDERAL RESOURCE FORUM

May 23rd – 24th, 2023
Charleston, WV

8:30 A.M. WELCOME

Ryan Thorn, State Director for WV, U. S. Department of Agriculture

9:00 A.M. THE TIME IS NOW: HOW OUR PERSEVERANCE AND INGENUITY HAVE PREPARED US FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY

Moderated by **Christine Sorenson**, Lead of Engagement, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Partners Network

- **David Hutchison**, Vice President of Advancement and Governmental Affairs, Glenville State University; Executive Director, Glenville State University Foundation
- **Kayleigh Kyle**, Supervisory Community Liaison, WV, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development
- **John Tuggle**, Executive Director, Region IV Planning and Development Council
- **Stephanie Tyree**, Executive Director, WV Community Development Hub

9:45 A.M. COMMUNITY, CAPACITY & COLLABORATION: MAXIMIZING FEDERAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP YOUR LOCAL ECONOMY

Moderated by **Leasha Johnson**, Executive Director, Mingo County Redevelopment Authority

- **Dwendolyn Chester**, Management and Program Analyst, US. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration
- **Kimberly Donahue**, Branch Manager, U.S Small Business Administration
- **Mike Graney**, Executive Director, West Virginia Department of Economic Development
- **Briggs White**, Deputy Executive Director, Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization

10:45 A.M. HOUSING, HEALTH, AND WELLNESS: DEVELOPING HEALTHY AND LIVABLE COMMUNITIES IN RURAL WV

Moderated by **Jenny Hudson**, Development Director, Williamson Health and Wellness Center, Inc.

- **Julie Alston**, WV Field Office Director, Housing and Urban Development
- **Jocelyn Richgels**, Fellow for the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP), Department of Health and Human Services; Director of National Policy Programs, Rural Policy Research Institute
- **Rich Sutphin**, Executive Director, WV Rural Health Association
- **Edward “Ted” Diaz**, Cabinet Secretary, State of WV Department of Veterans Assistance

11:35 A.M. LUNCH

12:00 P.M. SPECIAL GUEST: LEE JONES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RURAL PARTNERS NETWORK

12:15 P.M. SPECIAL GUEST: SENATOR JOE MANCHIN III

12:55 P.M. WORKING TOWARD THE FUTURE: MEETING THE NEEDS OF TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE, TODAY

Moderated by **Tiffany Williams**, Director of Workforce & Economic Development, WV Community & Technical College System

- **Silva Nezly**, Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor
- **Megan Robinson**, Program Manager, Workforce & Technical Assistance, Appalachian Regional Commission
- **Rachel E. Bowman**, Assistant Director of Workforce Development, Workforce WV

1:45 P.M. RESILIENT TOWNS AND RISING TIDES: BUILDING SUSTAINABLE AND GENERATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Moderated by **Shane Whitehair**, Executive Director, Region VII Planning and Development Council

- **Lily Ballengee**, OST Policy Transportation Specialist, U.S. Department of Transportation
- **Clay Riley**, Vice President Strategic Growth, The Thrasher Group
- **Charles Spann**, Federal Program Officer, KY & WV Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth, NTIA, U.S. Department of Commerce
- **Ryan Thorn**, State Director WV, U. S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development
- **Tim Witman**, Acting Environmental Assessment Branch Chief, OCTEA EPA Region 3

2:45 P.M. BREAK

3:15 P.M. A WINNING COMBINATION: PAIRING LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES WITH PHILANTHROPIC INVESTMENT

Moderated by **Brianna Hickman**, Community + Business Resilience Initiative Program Director, WV Community Development Hub

- **Heidi Binko**, Co-founder and Executive Director, Just Transition Fund
- **James E. Bush**, ARC Program Manager, WV Development Office
- **Adam Hodges**, Community & Economic Development Program Leader, West Virginia State University Extension Service
- **Jennie Smith-Peers**, President and CEO, Philanthropy WV
- **Bill Woodrum**, Senior Program Officer for Community and Economic Development, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation

4:14 P.M. MAKE IT WORK: PROJECT READINESS & BEST PRACTICES FOR SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS PRESENTED BY THE WV GRANT RESOURCES CENTERS

- **Morgan Saunders**, Co-Director, WV Grant Resource Center at Marshall University

4:45 P.M. CLOSING REMARKS

6:30

-8:30 P.M. NETWORKING DINE AROUNDS (OPTIONAL)

Wednesday, May 24th

8:00 A.M. OPEN REGISTRATION

8:30 A.M. OPEN OFFICE HOURS

Rural Partners Network members have the opportunity to network and engage with local, state and federal partners to discuss specific questions, comments or concerns. We suggest this time be utilized to address specific project questions and to schedule follow-up conversations if needed.

10:30 A.M. WV SIGNATURE PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

10:30 - Pioneer Trail Towns

- **Terrell Ellis**, Executive Director, Advantage Valley
- **Jeff Campbell**, Executive Director, Gilmer County Economic Development Association
- **Robert Shafer**, Mayor, City of Summersville, WV

10:50 - Non-Emergent Transport

- **Amy Downey**, Chief Financial Officer, Roane General Hospital

11:05 - Minnie Hamilton Health System

- **Eric Ritchie**, Brittany Frymier and Brent Barr, Minnie Hamilton Health System

11:20 – The Hive Expansion

- **Jina Belcher**, Executive Director, New River Gorge Regional Development Authority

11:35 - Facing Hunger Food Bank Recovery

- **Cynthia D Kirkhart**, CEO, Facing Hunger Food Bank

11:50 - New River Gorge Ride Center

- **Corey Lilly**, Director of Outdoor Economic Development, City of Beckley

12:00 P.M. END

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS:



**CLAUDE
WORTHINGTON
BENEDUM
FOUNDATION**

