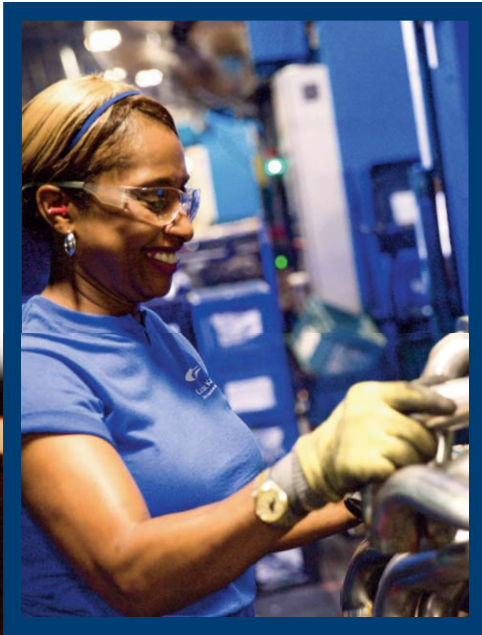


ASPIRE APPALACHIA

COLLABORATIONS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

August 30-31, 2016 | Johnson City, Tennessee



ASPIRE APPALACHIA

COLLABORATIONS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Welcome to Johnson City, Tennessee, for this year's annual Appalachian Regional Commission conference!

2016 has been a busy year for the Appalachian Regional Commission. We launched our part of the Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative to build a stronger and more diverse economy in Appalachia's coal-impacted communities. We formally adopted *Investing in Appalachia's Future: The Appalachian Regional Commission's Five-Year Strategic Plan for Capitalizing on Appalachia's Opportunities* to guide our investments over the next five years. We continue to invest federal resources through our traditional Area Development Program to create jobs, train workers, and leverage other investments for the benefit of the Region.



This year's conference theme, **Aspire Appalachia: Collaborations in Rural Development**, encourages us to focus on the unique role rural communities play across our region. These communities are the backbone of Appalachia's economy and identity, and their resilience is integral to Appalachia's success. Throughout the conference, we hope you are inspired by new ideas and colleagues who are driving Appalachia's future. Together we will continue to make Appalachia a region of great opportunity that will achieve socioeconomic parity with the nation.



Here's to a great conference!

Bill Haslam
Governor of Tennessee
2016 ARC States' Co-Chair

Earl F. Gohl
ARC Federal Co-Chair

CONFERENCE AGENDA

TUESDAY, August 30, 2016

3:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Registration Desk Open <i>Mountain States Health Alliance Ballroom Foyer</i>
5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	WELCOME RECEPTION <i>Mountain States Health Alliance Ballroom</i> Join fellow conference attendees for a relaxing evening of conversation and entertainment by the East Tennessee State University Bluegrass Pride Band. Hors d'oeuvres will be served.
	Dinner on Your Own Enjoy dinner in one of the Johnson City area's many restaurants and eateries. Information on dining options is available on the Johnson City Convention and Visitors Bureau site visitjohnsoncitytn.com

WEDNESDAY, August 31, 2016

8:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.	Registration Desk Open <i>Mountain States Health Alliance Ballroom Foyer</i>
8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.	Buffet Breakfast <i>Mountain States Health Alliance Ballroom Foyer</i>
9:00 a.m.-9:15 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks <i>Mountain States Health Alliance Ballroom</i>

<p>9:15 a.m.–10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>OPENING PLENARY SESSION <i>Mountain States Health Alliance Ballroom</i> Bringing ARC's Mission to Life in Rural Appalachia ARC's mission is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia. The conference's opening session will focus on how we live up to that mission. What do ARC governors and their alternates, program managers, local development districts, and the co-chairs—the four branches of ARC's family tree—identify as the key ingredients for making strong and sustainable investments across the Region? What are replicable models and ideas? What lessons should we keep in mind as we continue to grow Appalachia's future? Moderator: <i>Scott T. Hamilton</i>, Executive Director, Appalachian Regional Commission, Washington, D.C. Panelists: <i>Earl F. Gohl</i>, Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission, Washington, D.C. <i>Olivia Collier</i>, ARC Program Manager, Rural Economic Development Division, North Carolina Department of Commerce, Raleigh, North Carolina <i>Jill Foys</i>, Executive Director, Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission, Oil City, Pennsylvania <i>Bill Shelton</i>, Director, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, Richmond, Virginia</p>					
<p>10:15 a.m.–10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Networking Break</p>					
<p>10:30 a.m.–11:45 a.m.</p>	<p>CONCURRENT SESSIONS I Choose one of the following three concurrent sessions. The sessions will be repeated in the afternoon.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="332 850 1572 2045"> <tr> <td data-bbox="332 850 747 2045" style="background-color: #e1f5fe;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Investing in Rural Entrepreneurship <i>Buffalo Mountain Room (Room 137B)</i></p> <p>Appalachia's entrepreneurs are fueling economic growth in a variety of sectors like health care, energy, local food systems, advanced manufacturing, tourism, and technology. In this session, panelists will discuss how education, business startup programs and networks, technical assistance, increased access to capital, and other strategies are creating thriving entrepreneurial ecosystems throughout the Region.</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Tamarah Holmes</i>, Associate Director of Policy and Strategic Development, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, Richmond, Virginia</p> <p>Panelists: <i>Charlie Brock</i>, CEO and President, Launch Tennessee, Nashville, Tennessee <i>Devin Stephenson</i>, President, Big Sandy Community and Technical College, Prestonsburg, Kentucky <i>Joseph Carlucci</i>, WWSBDC Business Coach, New River Gorge Regional Development Authority and West Virginia HIVE Business Accelerator, Beckley, West Virginia</p> </td> <td data-bbox="747 850 1161 2045" style="background-color: #ffe0b2;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Building Rural Infrastructure <i>Beech Mountain Room (Room 120)</i></p> <p>To meet their unique needs, rural communities must consider comprehensive approaches to infrastructure development. In this session, panelists will discuss how strategies like community planning and creative project structuring can help build stronger transportation, telecommunications, and other infrastructure systems across the Region.</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Vernon Brown</i>, Executive Director, Office of Federal Grants, Kentucky Department for Local Government, Frankfort, Kentucky</p> <p>Panelists: <i>Jon Claffey</i>, Senior Policy Adviser, Office of the Assistant Administrator, USDA Rural Development Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. <i>Mark Patterson</i>, General Manager/CEO, Highland Telephone Cooperative, Whitley City, Kentucky <i>Lew Holloway</i>, Downtown Economic Development Director, Hendersonville, North Carolina</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1161 850 1572 2045" style="background-color: #e1f5fe;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Leveraging Rural Communities' Cultural and Natural Assets <i>Roan Mountain Room (Room 137A)</i></p> <p>Appalachia's distinctive identity is grounded in the Region's cultural and natural assets, and these same resources can drive economic growth. In this session, panelists will discuss how communities can use cultural tourism, historic preservation, environmental stewardship, and other place-based strategies to create economic opportunity in rural Appalachia.</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Bill Atkinson</i>, ARC Program Manager, Maryland Department of Planning, Cumberland, Maryland</p> <p>Panelists: <i>Kevin Triplett</i>, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, Nashville, Tennessee <i>Dennis Tumlin</i>, Executive Director, Rhea Economic and Tourism Council, Inc., Dayton, Tennessee <i>Kelli Smith</i>, Policy Analyst, Friends of Southwest Virginia, Abingdon, Virginia</p> </td> </tr> </table>			<p style="text-align: center;">Investing in Rural Entrepreneurship <i>Buffalo Mountain Room (Room 137B)</i></p> <p>Appalachia's entrepreneurs are fueling economic growth in a variety of sectors like health care, energy, local food systems, advanced manufacturing, tourism, and technology. 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11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	<p>LUNCH AND PRESENTATION <i>Mountain States Health Alliance Ballroom</i></p> <p><i>Building a Stronger Workforce in Rural Appalachia</i> Governor Bill Haslam’s “Drive to 55” initiative aims to ensure that at least 55 percent of Tennesseans have earned a college degree or certificate by the year 2025. In this presentation, Candice McQueen, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Education, and Ted Townsend, chief operating officer of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, will discuss how their agencies are working together to meet “Drive to 55” goals and what this initiative will mean for Appalachia.</p>
1:00 p.m.-1:15 p.m.	<p>Networking Break</p>
1:15 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	<p>CONCURRENT SESSIONS II <i>(Repeat of morning sessions)</i></p>
2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.	<p>CLOSING PLENARY SESSION <i>Mountain States Health Alliance Ballroom</i></p> <p><i>Identifying Rural Communities’ Next-Gen Leaders</i> Appalachia’s rural communities are undergoing significant economic changes that will have lasting impacts. Young entrepreneurs, organizers, and thinkers are cultivating new strategies and ideas for the Region’s future. In this session, we will discuss the vision these emerging leaders have for Appalachia and what they need to succeed.</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Earl F. Gohl</i>, Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission, Washington, D.C.</p> <p>Panelists: <i>Marian Royston</i>, Program Director, Randolph County Youth Development Initiative, Roanoke, Alabama <i>Kendall Bilbrey</i>, Coordinator, Stay Together Appalachian Youth (STAY) Project, Whitesburg, Kentucky <i>Stephen Smith</i>, Director, Try This West Virginia and Our Children, Our Future, Charleston, West Virginia</p>
3:30 p.m.	<p>Conference Concludes</p>

ARC and the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development would like to thank the following sponsors for their support of the *Aspire Appalachia: Collaborations in Rural Development* conference.

