

North Carolina SMALL TOWNS

Embracing Change, Taking Charge

2005 Rural Partners Forum North Raleigh Hilton

NOVEMBER 3, 2005

- 1:00 REGISTRATION OPENS
SMALL TOWN EXCHANGE OPENS (Grand Ballroom Prefunction Area)
- 3:00 PLENARY I: OUR HOMETOWNS – WHO THEY ARE, WHAT THEY NEED, WHY THEY'RE VITAL TO OUR FUTURE
Welcome to the 2005 Rural Partners Forum
Tom Lambeth, Rural Center Board Chairman, moderator
- Release of Report: *Small Towns in North Carolina*
Billy Ray Hall, President, Rural Center
- Cutting to the Chase: Local leaders talk about the trials and triumphs of life in their hometowns
Moderator: A. Everette Clark, Mayor, Town of Marion
Jeffrey Morse, Manager, Town of Valdese
Don Davis, Mayor, Town of Snow Hill
Fannie Greene, Administrator, Town of Garysburg
- 5:00 RECEPTION
- 6:30 RURAL PARTNERS BANQUET
- HOW SMALL TOWNS ARE TRANSFORMING THEIR ECONOMIES & THEIR FUTURES
First showing of video on small towns in North Carolina
Keynote address: David Beurle, Founder & Director, Innovative Leadership Australia
- 8:30 EVENTS CONCLUDE

NOVEMBER 4, 2004

- 7:30 BREAKFAST BUFFET (in prefunction area)
REGISTRATION OPENS
- 8:30 PLENARY II: NEW PERSPECTIVES, FRESH APPROACHES
Moderator: Anita Brown-Graham, Professor of Public Law and Government, UNC-CH School of Government
Rethinking Governance: Nancy Stark, Director, Rural Governance Initiative, Rural Policy Research Institute
Financing the Future: Rick Carlisle, Founder and Managing Partner, Dogwood Equity
- 9:30 PLENARY III: BUILDING ON OUR STRENGTHS
The Restoration Economy: Storm Cunningham, Director, Revitalization Institute
North Carolina's Natural Environment: Bill Holman, Executive Director, Clean Water Management Trust Fund
North Carolina's Built Environment: J. Myrick Howard, President, Preservation North Carolina

- 10:45 CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS: SIX STRATEGIES EVERY SMALL TOWN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT (see below)
- 12:00 SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: NORTH CAROLINA SMALL TOWNS INITIATIVE
Lieutenant Governor Beverly Perdue, Rural Center President Billy Ray Hall and
North Carolina's State and Local Leadership
- 12:30 CLOSING LUNCH BUFFET
- 2:00 EVENTS CONCLUDE

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS: SIX STRATEGIES EVERY SMALL TOWN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

The New Face of Manufacturing: Recruitment, Expansion & Creative Partnerships

Setting the Stage: Stewart Dickinson, Director, Commerce Finance Center, N.C. Department of Commerce.

Making the Case: *Northwest Advanced Materials Cluster* John Hauser, Director, Industry Services/Cluster Development, Wilkes Community College. Bryan Edwards, Manager, Town of Sparta. Ken McFadyen, Manager, Town of West Jefferson. *High Tech Textiles* Chuck Heustess, Bladen County EDC. Arthur E. Whedbee, Mayor, Town of Clarkton.

Homegrown Jobs: Saying 'Yes' to Small Business & Entrepreneurship

Setting the Stage: Leslie Scott, Director, Institute for Rural Entrepreneurship

Making the Case: *Harkers Island* Betsy DeCampo, Microenterprise Coordinator, Carteret Community College. *Town of Valdese* Eddie McGimsey, Entrepreneurship Facilitator, Burke County.

Arts, Arts, Everywhere: Embracing Arts & Crafts as a Core Economic Strategy

Setting the Stage: Mary Regan, Executive Director, North Carolina Arts Council.

Making the Case: *The Arts in North Carolina – Three Case Studies* Sarah Butzen, Senior Policy Associate, Regional Technology Strategies. *N.C. Arts Incubator* Leon Tongret, Executive Director, N.C. Arts, Inc., Siler City.

The Natural Approach: Making the Most of Scenic Beauty, Environmental Assets

Setting the Stage: Mikki Sager, North Carolina Representative, Conservation Fund.

Making the Case: *Recreation* Robert Partin, Mayor, Town of Scotland Neck. *Eco-Tourism* Barbara Meliski, Mayor Pro-Tem, Chimney Rock Village. *Environmental Education* Mavis Hill, Executive Director, Tyrrell County CDC, Town of Columbia.

Returning to Our Roots: Building a Future on Culture, Heritage & Tradition

Setting the Stage: Teresa Watts, Director, Heritage Tourism and Community Development, N.C. Department of Commerce.

Making the Case: Becky Anderson, Executive Director, Handmade in America.

Restoring from Within: Building Reuse

Setting the Stage: Rodney Swink, Assistant Director, Division of Community Assistance, N.C. Department of Commerce.

Making the Case: Rick Bain, Director, Rural Center Building Reuse and Restoration Grants Program. R. Sue Humphrey, Interim Manager, Town of Red Springs. Danielle Withrow, Planner, Town of Forest City. Jimmy Bethea, former Administrator, Town of Rowland.