

DRAFT AGENDA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2018

Time	Topic
12:30 PM	REGISTRATION & NETWORKING
1:30 PM	ASSEMBLY WELCOME: Setting the Stage
2:05 PM	AWARD: <i>Rural Leader of the Year</i>
2:10 PM	KEYNOTE: <i>Community Capital: Promoting Equity & Driving Rural Transformation</i> Bill Bynum, President & CEO HOPE (Hope Enterprise Corp., Hope Credit Union, and Hope Policy Institute)
2:55 PM	AWARD: <i>Community Bank of the Year</i>
3:00 PM	PANEL: <i>Building Equity and Opportunity in Rural North Carolina</i>
4:00 PM	RURAL RESOURCE FAIR & RECEPTION
5:15 PM	BREAK
5:30 PM	WELCOME & DINNER
6:00 PM	DINNER KEYNOTE: <i>A Conversation with James & Deborah Fallows</i> Authors of the best-selling book, <i>Our Towns</i>
7:15 PM	DESSERT RECEPTION
8:30 PM	ADJOURN

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2018

Time	Topic
7:30 AM	BREAKFAST & NETWORKING
8:00 AM	CONVENE FOR PLENARY
8:10 AM	AWARD: <i>Small Town of the Year</i>
8:15 AM	KEYNOTE: <i>How Innovative Leadership & Initiatives Build New Capacity & Enhance Regional Identity</i> Scott Hamilton, Executive Director Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)
9:00 AM	AWARD: <i>Rural Entrepreneur of the Year</i>
9:05 AM	PANEL: <i>Growing Better Together: A Regional Approach</i>
10:00 AM	CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS:
	<i>Branding and Marketing Your Town for Success</i>
	<i>Faith Communities as Partners in Innovation</i>
	<i>Innovation in Rural Food and Community Partnerships</i>
	<i>Connecting the Last Mile: Learning About the Broadband Grants Program</i>
	<i>Bridging the Divides: Building Partnerships for Effective Advocacy</i>
11:30 AM	BREAK
11:45 AM	CONVENE FOR LUNCH
12:15 PM	AWARD: <i>Rural Advocate of the Year</i>
12:25 PM	CLOSING PRESENTATION: <i>Danville, Virginia: A Regional Success Story</i>
1:30 PM	ADJOURN