Thursday, November 15, 2018

12:30PM  REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING, Grand Ballroom Lobby  
Presented by First Citizens Bank

1:30PM  PLENARY SESSION, Grand Ballroom  
Welcome and Overview: Patrick Woodie, NC Rural Center

  AWARD: Rural Leader of the Year

  AWARD: Rural Advocate of the Year

OPENING KEYNOTE: COMMUNITY CAPITAL DRIVES EQUITY & RURAL TRANSFORMATION  
Speaker Introduction: Dan Gerlach, Golden LEAF Foundation  
Speaker: Bill Bynum, CEO  
HOPE (Hope Enterprise Corporation, Hope Credit Union, & Hope Policy Institute)

2:45PM  PANEL: BUILDING EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY IN RURAL NORTH CAROLINA  
Moderator: Mebane Rash, EdNC  
Health: Zulayka Santiago, Libélula Consulting  
Education: Brenda Berg, BEST NC  
Economics: Tara Kenchen, NC Community Development Initiative

  AWARD: Community Bank of the Year

3:45PM  UPDATES FROM THREAD CAPITAL AND BREAK  
Presented by Carolina Farm Credit

4:00PM  RURAL RESOURCE FAIR AND RECEPTION, Capital Ballroom  
Presented by Thread Capital

5:30PM  WELCOME AND DINNER, Grand Ballroom

6:00PM  DINNER KEYNOTE DISCUSSION  
Moderator: Anita Brown-Graham, UNC School of Government  
Speakers: James and Deborah Fallows, Authors of Our Towns

7:15PM  DESSERT RECEPTION, Grand Ballroom Lobby  
Presented by United Community Bank
Friday, November 16, 2018

7:00AM  BREAKFAST AND NETWORKING, Grand Ballroom Lobby  
Presented by First National Bank

8:00AM  PLENARY SESSION, Grand Ballroom  
Welcome and Overview: Barry Ryan, NC Rural Center  

AWARD: Small Town of the Year

OPENING KEYNOTE: HOW INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP & INITIATIVES BUILD NEW CAPACITY & ENHANCE REGIONAL IDENTITY  
Introduction: Misty Herget, NC Rural Center  
Speaker Introduction: Olivia Collier, Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)  
Speakers: Scott Hamilton, Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)  
Ferrel Guillory, UNC School of Media & Journalism

9:05AM  REMARKS FROM GOVERNOR ROY COOPER

9:20AM  PANEL: THINK LOCALLY, ACT REGIONALLY: HOW PARTNERSHIPS HELP EVERYONE  
Moderator: Ferrel Guillory, UNC School of Media & Journalism  
Panelists: John Chaffee, NC East Alliance  
Kenny Flowers, NC Department of Commerce  
Sheila Pierce Knight, Jacksonville Onslow Economic Development  

AWARD: Rural Entrepreneur of the Year

10:15AM  BREAK

10:30AM  BREAKOUT SESSIONS  
Presented by NC State Extension

1.  Branding & Marketing Your Town for Success, Salon A/B  
   David Joyner, Joyner Media & Strategies

2.  Faith Communities as Partners in Innovation, Salon C  
   Pastor Shawn Maynor, Gospel Harvest Church of God in Christ  
   Rev. Dr. Denise Honeycutt, Pastor of Merritt’s Chapel UMC

3.  Innovation in Rural Food & Community Partnership, Salon D  
   Laura Lauffer, Local Food Systems, NC Growing Together Project  
   Lee Woodard, Duplin County Small Business Center  
   Gabe Cummings, Working Landscapes  
   Gini Knight, Community Food Strategies

4.  Connecting the Last Mile: Learning about Broadband Grants Program, Salon E  
   Jeff Sural, NC Department of Information Technology

10:45AM  BREAK  
Presented by Carolina Farm Credit

12:00PM  LUNCH: INNOVATION IN RURAL EDUCATION  
Presented by Carolina Complete Health  
Welcome: Grant Godwin, Chair of NC Rural Center Board of Directors  
Remarks from Peter Hans, NC Community Colleges  
Speaker Introduction: Mike Hawkins, Transylvania County Commissioner  
Speakers: Jaime Laughter & Page Lemel, Transylvania County

12:45PM  CLOSING PRESENTATION  
REGIONAL COLLABORATION: A SUCCESS STORY  
Introduction: Jason Gray, NC Rural Center  
Presenters: David Smitherman, Pittsylvania County, Virginia  
Jennifer Gregory, Middle Border Forward  
Telly Tucker, City of Danville, Virginia

1:25PM  CLOSING REMARKS: PATRICK WOODIE, NC RURAL CENTER

1:30PM  ADJOURN