

Northeastern Oklahoma Regional Alliance



“BUILDING TOMORROW’S COMMUNITIES TODAY”

Track 1 Re-imagining Infrastructure	Track 2 Promoting Innovation	Track 3 Transforming Economies	Track 4 Human Capital
<p>Infrastructure is the primary building block of our economy and as economies transform to service and knowledge-based sectors, we must plan our infrastructure accordingly. The changing global economy gives rural regions the opportunity to gain equal footing and to take full advantage our traditional thinking around geographic location and sustainable infrastructure needs in the future will be challenged.</p>	<p>Communities succeed when they apply new ideas to their existing assets. Creativity, cost-efficiency, multi-purpose solutions, leadership and collaboration are keys to success for communities large and small. Out of the box thinking drives the development of new firms, technology, and opportunities.</p>	<p>Economic development landscape is undergoing significant transformation; strategies of the last decade are no longer viable. Communities are thinking regionally and globally and technology is driving the development of new industries and marketing strategies. Economic development organizations are informing innovative partnerships and creating new structures; creating the blueprint for tomorrow's economy.</p>	<p>A community's ability to prosper in the knowledge economy is determined by its ability to attract, retain, and develop highly skilled and knowledgeable workers. New skill sets are needed by workers to meet the demands of employers. The competition for skilled workers is stronger than ever and quickly becoming international. In the post-recession economy, talented workers have many options on here to work and live and savvy economic developers have made smart alliances with education institutions, as well as with companies, foundations and government. While there are no silver bullets, attracting the workforce of the future is key.</p>

8:00 – 9:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 9:30 **Welcome** NSU President Steve Turner, Principal Chief Bill John Baker, RSU President Larry Rice, Chair Jim Wilson

9:30 – 10:30 **Keynote Address** Dr. Andy Hines, Futurist, Author and Program Coordinator & Lecturer for University of Houston’s Graduate Program in Foresight, will speak on the future economy and the need to prepare for that future today.

10:30 – 10:40 Break

10:40 – 12:10 **Workshops**

- Track 1: Power Up - the Future of Energy** The energy sector is changing; a panel will discuss the impending changes and the impact on rural communities, including how communities can carve out opportunities.

Panelists: Jason Alberty, Grand River Dam Authority; Logan Pleasant, Lake Region Electric Coop; Jim Stout, Oklahoma Natural Gas; Jim Thomas, City of Claremore; Jody Harris, USDA Energy Coordinator. Moderator – John Cary, NORA Board
- Track 2: Stimulating Environment – Entrepreneurial Communities** Growing successful local businesses to stimulate job creation is critical in rural communities; a panel will discuss how communities can support local business growth, successful community based microenterprise/small business funding models, and alternative approaches to economic development.

Panelists: Jeri Koehler, RSU Innovation Center; Johnnie Earp, CNEDTA Chair; Mackie Moore, Indian Capital Technology Center Bid Assistance Center; Dave Shideler, Oklahoma State University. Moderator – Brian Hartley, Oklahoma State Bank in Vinita
- Track 3: Rural Policies - Forward Thinking Policies to Address Poverty Cycles** Current rural policy increases rural poverty; a panel will discuss rural communities harnessing their political capital through grassroots networks to shape winnable policy objectives supporting alternative, asset-based rural economies and targeted poverty prevention programs, including building family financial assets, and will discuss building grassroots leaders to maintain a consistent, sustainable policy voice.

Panelists: David Blatt, Oklahoma Policy Institute; Regan Gruber Moffitt, J.D., Public Policy, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation; Christy Finsel, Oklahoma Native Asset Building Coalition. Moderator – Anita Thompson, Northeastern State University

- **Track 4: *Workforce Trends – Preparing for the Future We Want*** Attracting, retaining and developing human capital is key to rural prosperity; a panel will discuss workforce and industry trends, including what future workforces will look like.

Panelists: Dr. Andy Hines, Futurist; Jon Chiappe, ODOC Director of Research, Workforce Oklahoma. Moderator – Diane Kelley, Cherokee Nation Career Services

12:10 – 2:30 Lunch and Regional Collaboration Awards

**12:30 – 2:00 Luncheon Keynotes:**

12:30 – 1:00 Marilyn Feaver, Executive Director of the Southwest Oklahoma Impact Coalition, will speak on the City of Duncan’s Career Pathways Program.

1:00 – 2:00 Dr. Eduardo Sanchez, Chief Medical Officer, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, will speak on how communities impact health, building heart healthy communities and Affordable Healthcare Act.

2:00 – 2:30 Award Presentations – Cherokee Nation Crossing Borders Award; NSU Innovative Collaboration Award; Google Community Champion Award

2:30 – 2:50 Break

**2:50 – 4:20 Workshops**

- **Track 1: *21st Century Infrastructure – Technology*** Workplaces and schools are coming to rely more and more on technology and the rural electric cooperatives are address the issue of fiber to the rural areas; a panel will discuss the future of technology discuss the future of technology.

Panelists: Mike Wooten, Google; Tom Anderson, CommScope, Inc.; Michael Becker, USDA; Lisa Lyon, Cherokee Nation Health Information Technology; Sharon Ballew, Tenkiller Schools. Moderator – Barbara Hawkins, NORA Board

- **Track 2: *The Future of Financing*** Communities must think out of the box to fund community and business needs; a panel will discuss various funding options including federal funding, private fundraising, and community development loan fund opportunities.

Panelists: Jerry Efurd, USDA; Kim Lynch, The Nonprofit Resource Center; Kristi Bias, Consultant Community Development Financial Institutions. Moderator – Shay Smith, Cherokee Nation Commerce Group

- **Track 3: *Economic Development Partnerships – Leading Economic Development in your Community*** Partnerships accelerate development; a panel will discuss the interdependency of rural and urban areas and the importance of public/private/philanthropic partnerships for sustainable economic development. Successful examples can be found in our own backyard.

Panelists: David Woods, City of Bartlesville; Marilyn Feaver, Executive Director of the Southwest Oklahoma Impact Coalition; Judee Snodderly, Miami Area Economic Development Service; Mike Harvey, Northwest Arkansas Council; Suzanne Sullivan, Vian Charitable Trust. Moderator – Ed Crone, Grand Gateway Economic Development Association

- **Track 4: *Education – Grass-roots Organizing for Education Quality and Equity*** Panelist will present on the successful grassroots political action models that spurred education financing in Arkansas and how Oklahoma is approaching the issue.

Panelists: David Blatt, Oklahoma Policy Institute; Lavina Grandon, Founder and Policy and Education Director of the Rural Community Alliance. Moderator – Don Raleigh, Pryor Schools Superintendent

4:20 – 4:40 Break

4:40 – 5:00 Call to Action

**5:00 – 6:00 Reception**

**6:00 – 8:00 Dinner Keynote Bob Dotson, NBC Today Show Correspondent and Author of the *American Story***