

## Rural Summit 2020 Tentative Agenda

### Wednesday August 19

Noon-5pm: Community-specific Activities Around Facilities, Critical Issues & the Future

2-4pm Mount Vernon: Panel discussion "The Secret to Mount Vernon's Retail Success" followed by a 3:00 guided walking tour.

4:30 – 5:30pm Swisher/Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery – "Building a Destination Retail Operation!"

5:30pm- 7pm: Cedar Ridge Reception Sponsored by The Bill Menner Group and Trusted Energy

### Thursday August 20

7:30-9am Continental breakfast

7:30-9am Registration

9am Conference Welcome

- Kirkwood Community College President Lori Sundberg
- IRDC Chair Sandy Ehrig

9:15am Summit Reflections: Kelly Bay, Emmetsburg and Benji Nichols, Decorah

9:30am Conference Opening Keynote. Steve Siemens.  
"Visualize or Fossilize! A New Decade to Make Good Happen."  
*Sponsored by ITC Midwest*

10:30am Networking Break

11:00am Break-out Sessions #1, #2 and #3

*Facilities and Projects:* Small Towns and Big Projects: Stories from the Field"  
*Critical Issues:* "Health and Health Care: Driving Healthier Small Towns"  
*Facing the Future:* "Connecting Ag and Community"

12:15pm Lunch, exhibitor overview and an Empowering Rural Iowa policy implications roundtable

1:30pm Break-out Sessions #4, #5 and #6

*Facilities and Projects:* Community Vitality through the Arts  
*Critical Issues:* New Strategies for Essential Public Services  
*Facing the Future:* Investing in Yourself: The Role of the Private Sector

2:30pm Short Break with Light Snack/Transition to Break-out Rooms

- 2:45pm Break-out Sessions #7, #8 and #9  
*Facilities and Projects: Rural Communities Innovating with Technology*  
*Critical Issues: Workforce Solutions and Innovations*  
*Facing the Future: Communications 2025*
- 5:00pm Rural Recognition Awards Reception  
*Sponsored by Iowa Farm Bureau/Renew Rural Iowa*
- 6:30pm Dinner on your Own

**Friday August 21**

- 7:00am Buffet Breakfast; Community Networking Time
- 8:00am Welcome Back, Day 2
- 8:10am Roundtable: Community Colleges and their Rural Impact  
*Sponsored by the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees*
- 9:10am 50 Ideas in 50 Minutes
- 10:00am Break
- 10:15am Roundtable: The Road to a Rural Vision
- 11:00am Closing Keynote David Williamson.  
"Turn It Up! Leadership Lessons from 50 Years of Rock'n'Roll"  
*Sponsored by Lincoln Savings Bank*
- 11:45am Adjourn