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**

7:30am - 9am Continental breakfast

7:30am - 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