

# Rural Summit 2021

## Wednesday August 18

1pm-5:00pm: "I Built This Rural Business" - Visits on-your-own to rural innovators in the region

[Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery](#) – Tours at 2, 3 and 4

1441 Marak Rd NW, Swisher, IA 52338

[Swine Tech](#) – Tours at 1 and 2

100 Cedar St, Solon 52333

[Walker Homestead](#) – Tours at 3:30 and 4:30

3867 James Ave SW, Iowa City, IA 52246

5:30pm- 7pm: Rural Summit Eve Reception

Cedar Ridge Winery and Distillery

***Sponsored by The Bill Menner Group and Trusted Energy***

Shuttle Bus Service from/to Hotel Kirkwood

## Thursday August 19

7:30-9am Continental breakfast

***Sponsored by ITC Midwest***

7:30-9am Registration

***Sponsored by ITC Midwest***

9am Conference Welcome

- Kirkwood Community College President Lori Sundberg
- IRDC Chair Mark Reinig

9:15am Conference Opening Keynote. Honorable Helen Miller, former Iowa State Representative  
"How Iowa Makes Me Feel"

***Sponsored by America's SBDC-Iowa***

10:00am Filling Your Toolbox: Sponsor Introductions and Networking Break

10:30am Break-out Sessions, Round 1

*Critical Issues: Growing Your Own: Driving New Entrepreneurship Efforts*

***Sponsored by Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses***

- Rand Fisher, Iowa Area Development Group (moderator)
- Evan Blakely, Denison Incubator
- Jordan DeGree, Cascade Innovation Lab
- Carla Eysink, O2 Network, Economic Gardening

***Facilities and Projects: Innovations in Public Assets***

***Sponsored by Iowa American Water***

- Libby Jacobs (Moderator)
- Brinson Kinzer, Blue Grass, Water
- Jennifer Davies, Slater, Wastewater
- Mark Raymie, Knoxville, VA Hospital Campus

***Facing the Future: Connecting Ag and Community:***

- Nathan Katzer, Iowa Farm Bureau (Moderator)
- Jeremy Puck, Puck Custom Enterprise, Manning

- Karen Seipold, Family Farmer, Malvern
- Bill Evans, Kalona Organics, Kalona

11:30am Networking Break/Team Reconnect – Transition to Lunch

12:00pm **Lunch + Empowering Rural Iowa Policy Implications**

- Iowa Lieutenant Governor Adam Gregg

***Sponsored by D.A. Davidson & Co.***

1:30pm Break-out Sessions, Round 2

***Critical Issues: Making the Most Out of Federal Funding***

***Sponsored by Bolton & Menk***

- Madison Burke, Bolton & Menk (Moderator)
- Karen Kurt, ECICOG, Cedar Rapids
- Michelle Franks, Golden Hills RC&D, Oakland
- Dave Heiar, Jackson County Economic Alliance, Maquoketa

***Facilities and Projects: Community Vitality through the Arts***

- David Schmitz, Iowa Arts Council (Moderator)
- Mel Stockman, Calico Publishing, Van Buren County
- Nancy Nickerson Lee, Cedar Summerstock Theatre, Mitchell County
- Blake and Bailey Fry-Schnormeier, Create Creston

***Facing the Future: Communications 2030***

- Jackie Haley, Community Bankers of Iowa (Moderator)
- Ethan Anderson, Big Imprint Web Design and Marketing, West Liberty
- Tina Bakehouse, Tina•B, Malvern
- Reo Menning, President & CEO, RINAlliance/ FUEllowa

2:30pm Break for Networking/Exhibitors/Transition to Break-outs

3:00pm Break-out Sessions, Round 3

***Critical Issues: Opening Doors: Being a Welcoming Community***

***Sponsored by CultureALL***

- Caleb Knutson, City of Marshalltown (Moderator)
- Keshia Fields, Johnson County
- Stacey Kimberlin, CultureALL
- Clara Lopez Ortiz, NE IA Equity Network

***Facilities and Projects: Dealing with Dangerous and Dilapidated Buildings***

***Sponsored by Impact 7G***

- Mel Pins, DNR (moderator)
- Jennifer Davies, City of Slater
- Justin Myers, City of Mediapolis
- Tim Vick, City of Manchester

***Facing the Future: Philanthropy Leading the Way***

- Joe Sorenson, Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines (Moderator)
- Randy Kuhlman, Fort Dodge, Saving Grocery Stores

- Jason Neises, Dubuque, Grade Level Reading
- Amber Rodgers, Wayne County, Countywide Housing.

4:00pm      Networking/Community Team Reconnect

5:00pm      Rural Recognition Reception  
***Sponsored by Iowa Farm Bureau/Renew Rural Iowa***

5:30pm      Rural Heroes Award Ceremony  
***Sponsored by IADG Community Foundation***

6:30pm      Dinner on your Own

**Friday August 20**

7:30am      Buffet Breakfast; Community Networking Time

8:30am      Welcome Back, Day 2

8:40am      Filling Your Toolbox: 50 Ideas in 50 Minutes

9:30am      Exhibitor Time with Snacks

9:50am      **Roundtable: Solutions to a Child Care Crisis**  
***Sponsored by Grinnell Mutual***

- Angie Duncan, First Children's Finance (moderator)
- Stephanie Fromm, Decorah
- Jodie Geist, Mount Ayr
- Mary Janssen, CCR&R of Northeast Iowa

10:45am      Closing Keynote: Gary Kroeger  
 "Leaving LA – and Coming Home"

11:30pm      Parting Message and Adjournment

- Rand Fisher, Iowa Area Development Group CEO and IRDC Vice-Chair