

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 May 1

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