

Iowa Rural Summit 2021

Hotel Kirkwood, Cedar Rapids, IA

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

[Wilson's Orchard & Farm](#)

4823 Dingleberry Rd NE, Iowa City, IA 52240

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

Cedar Ridge Winery and Distillery

1441 Marak Rd NW, Swisher, IA 52338

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

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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:**
- Sandy Ehrig, Iowa Farm Bureau/Renew Rural Iowa (Moderator)
 - Nathan Katzer, Eagle's Catch, Ellsworth
 - 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**
Sponsored by D.A. Davidson & Co.
- Iowa Lieutenant Governor Adam Gregg
- 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**
- David Caris, 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/ FUEL Iowa

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

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

