

# Iowa Rural Summit 2021

## Hotel Kirkwood, Cedar Rapids, IA

### Wednesday August 18

1:00pm-5pm "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](#) – Tours at 3 and 4

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***

The Atrium

7:30-9am Registration

***Sponsored by ITC Midwest***

The Atrium

9:00am Conference Welcome

Grand Ballroom

- 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***

Grand Ballroom

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

Grand Ballroom, The Atrium

- 10:30am Break-out Sessions, Round 1
- Critical Issues: Growing Your Own: Driving New Entrepreneurship Efforts***  
***Sponsored by Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses***  
 Ballrooms A/F
- 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***  
 Ballrooms B/C
- Libby Jacobs (Moderator)
  - Jennifer Davies, Slater, Wastewater
  - Frank Grage, Iowa American Water, Blue Grass Water
  - Mark Raymie, Knoxville, VA Hospital Campus
- Facing the Future: Connecting Ag and Community:***  
 Ballrooms D/E
- Nathan Katzer, Iowa Farm Bureau/Renew Rural Iowa (Moderator)
  - Bill Evans, Open Gates, Kalona
  - Jeremy Puck, Puck Custom Enterprise, Manning
  - Karen Seipold, Family Farmer, Malvern
- 11:30am Networking Break/Team Reconnect – Transition to Lunch
- 12:00pm **Lunch + Empowering Rural Iowa Policy Implications**  
***Sponsored by D.A. Davidson & Co.***  
 The Atrium
- 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***  
 Ballrooms A/F
- Madison Burke, Bolton & Menk (Moderator)
  - Michelle Franks, Golden Hills RC&D, Oakland
  - Dave Heiar, Jackson County Economic Alliance, Maquoketa
  - Karen Kurt, ECICOG, Cedar Rapids
- Facilities and Projects: Community Vitality through the Arts***  
 Ballrooms B/C
- David Schmitz, Iowa Arts Council (Moderator)
  - Nancy Nickerson Lee, Cedar Summerstock Theatre, Mitchell County
  - Bailey Fry-Schnormeier, Create Creston
  - Blake Fry-Schnormeier, Create Creston

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

Ballrooms D/E

- 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***

Ballrooms A/F

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

***Facilities and Projects: Dealing with Dangerous and Dilapidated Buildings  
Sponsored by Impact 7G***

Ballrooms B/C

- Jim Thompson, IEDA (moderator)
- Jennifer Davies, City of Slater
- Justin Myers, City of Mediapolis
- Mel Pins, DNR Brownfield Redevelopment Program

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

Ballrooms D/E

- Joe Sorenson, Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines (Moderator)
- Randy Kuhlman, Fort Dodge, Saving Grocery Stores
- Jason Neises, Dubuque, Local Leadership Development
- 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 Recognition Award Ceremony  
***Sponsored by IADG Community Foundation***

6:30pm Dinner on your Own

**Friday August 20**

7:30am Buffet Breakfast; Community Networking Time  
The Atrium

8:30am Welcome Back, Day 2  
Grand Ballroom

- 8:40am Filling Your Toolbox: 50 Ideas in 50 Minutes  
Grand Ballroom
- 9:30am Exhibitor Time with Snacks  
The Atrium
- 9:50am **Roundtable: Solutions to a Child Care Crisis**  
*Sponsored by Grinnell Mutual*  
Grand Ballroom
- 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"  
Grand Ballroom
- 11:30pm Parting Message and Adjournment  
Grand Ballroom
- Rand Fisher, Iowa Area Development Group CEO and IRDC Vice-Chair

## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

