

# 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***

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**  
***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***
- 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/ 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

