

Brian Dabson
RUPRI President & CEO

Brian Dabson is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Rural Policy Research Institute and Research Professor at the Harry S. Truman School of Public Affairs, University of Missouri, Columbia. He is Board Chair of the RUPRI Center for Rural Entrepreneurship and a member of the Community Affairs Advisory Council at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.



He has over 30 years of experience in public, private, and nonprofit sectors on both sides of the Atlantic dedicated to expanding economic opportunity for low-income people and distressed communities. Recognized nationally and internationally for his work on entrepreneurship development, particularly in a rural context, he has given many keynote presentations and consultations across the United States, Europe, India, and Australia. He is also a frequent speaker and writer on rural policy and the implications of global forces on rural America.

Prior to his current appointment, Brian Dabson was President of CFED (formerly Corporation for Enterprise Development), a Washington DC-based national nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding economic opportunity through asset-building, entrepreneurship, and economic development. He held that position for almost 13 years. At the same time, he served two terms as President of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Forum on Social Innovations.

Before joining CFED in 1992, he was for nine years, the Managing Director of a European consulting and research organization specializing in economic development, training, and employment issues. Prior to that he worked for 13 years in metropolitan and city governments in Liverpool and Glasgow.