



rural policy research institute

## 2005 Annual Report

# Summary of RUPRI Accomplishments, 2005

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## 2005 Deliverables

- RUPRI hosted an international conference and Fellows program, and six national conferences, participated in 9 hearing or briefing testimonies at the national, regional or state level; published over 40 policy studies, white papers and working papers; and provided leadership for over 150 rural policy speeches or major presentations across the nation and world.

## General Rural Policy

### *International*

- RUPRI hosted the International Rural Network conference, *The Power of Place: Rural Communities, Global Reach*, on June 19-24, 2005 in Abington, Virginia. Building on the previous three conferences, this conference was designed to bring together practitioners from rural communities with rural policy makers and scholars. The conference emphasized the sharing of practical experiences while highlighting the role of place and place-based innovation in local development, rural health, education, culture and environment, with attention to implications for rural policy and governance. The conference was attended by over 300 people from 46 countries.
- RUPRI signed an MOU with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, an OAS based ministerial consortium governed by the Secretaries of Agriculture in the Americas. Members of RUPRI and IICA met in Costa Rica in October to begin to frame a five-year program of work for a new collaboration, *the Alliance for the Rural Americas*.
- A group of RUPRI Fellows made up of the leadership of key membership organizations (NLC, NADO, NACO, NCSL, RCCA, NRHA) traveled to Brussels to be briefed by EU officials and academics on current agriculture and rural development policy.

### *National*

- RUPRI continues to provide ongoing policy decision support for Congressional Members and staff, as well as the White House and federal departments and agencies. RUPRI provided testimony to the House Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management regarding the Administration's *Strengthening America's Communities Initiative (SACI)* and also to the Commerce Secretary's SACI Advisory Committee.
- RUPRI continues organizational leadership for the National Rural Network, a consortium of over 50 national organizations, institutions, and not-for-profits working to create an improved framework for national rural policy. In 2005 RUPRI provided coordination for an NRN document analyzing the Administration's 2006 budget.
- RUPRI hosted a *Rural Regional Innovation Policy Dialogue*, including elected leaders and CEOs from the National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, National Association of Development Organizations, National Rural Health Association, Rural Community College Alliance, and National Conference of State Legislatures. The goal of the meeting was to continue work to build a common platform for rural development initiatives.
- RUPRI's weekly opinion column is published in over 100 newspapers and periodicals, with an estimated total circulation of 1 million readers per issue.

### *Regional*

- RUPRI is working with the Big 12 Universities regarding the development of a Center for Economic Development, Innovation and Commercialization, as well as working with the Presidents and Chancellors of the Universities in Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas, regarding an evolving new institutional entity to advance regional competitiveness in the four-state area.
- RUPRI is conducting a Community Clustering Initiative, with funding from the Northwest Area Foundation, to strengthen governance in three rural multi-community regions in the northwest.

### *State*

- RUPRI partnered with the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Council of State Governments in the third annual Agriculture Chairs Summit in Memphis, TN, attended by over 80 state Agricultural Committee Chairs of their designees, representing 45 states.
- RUPRI partnered with the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Northwest Area Foundation for the second annual Rural Policy Academy for state legislators in Seattle, WA in August. The Academy was attended by 37 legislators from 25 states.
- The RUPRI-facilitated collaborative of State Rural Policy Centers met in Virginia to discuss major initiatives underway.
- RUPRI worked with the leadership within the state of Indiana to craft a rural strategy for the state. Governor Daniels and Lieutenant Governor Skillman, through their cabinet policy directors, are working with eight teams, each composed of 20 Indiana sector leaders, to develop a strategic plan.
- University of Missouri Extension and RUPRI are collaborating on a Missouri Rural Entrepreneurship Initiative, which is focused on enhancing the entrepreneurship climate in rural Missouri communities.

### **Entrepreneurship**

- The RUPRI Center for Rural Entrepreneurship co-published a book (together with a companion website), *Energizing Entrepreneurs: Charting a Course for Rural Communities*, a guide for community leaders and economic development practitioners who are interested in creating entrepreneurship development strategies for their rural communities.
- With a grant from the Northwest Area Foundation, the Center is in the process of preparing case studies of promising rural entrepreneurship initiatives, creating a national database of programs and systems, pulling together a national cadre of researchers, and has convened a meeting of leading community practitioners in Minnesota, Iowa, and the Dakotas.
- The Center has conducted six Home Town Competitiveness Academies, eight *Energizing Entrepreneurship* Workshops, and a six-month state academy in Maryland; Center staff made over 30 presentations at conferences across the country.
- The Center provided advice to the Regional Rural Development Centers in preparation for the National Coalition for Rural Entrepreneurship listening sessions across the country; the Center has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Western Rural Development Center to promote entrepreneurship development in the rural West.

## Health

- The RUPRI Rural Health Panel conducted Congressional Briefings on “Rural Health 101” and on rural impacts of the Medicare Modernization Act; the Center has produced policy briefs on Medicare, and made numerous presentations on rural health policy, healthcare quality, and health delivery systems
- The RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis continued support to the Rural Hospital Issues Group, an informal discussion group whose purpose is to bring the perspective of local and state practitioners to a critique of national public policies and industry trends affecting rural hospitals.
- RUPRI is a joint partner in the Rural Assistance Center, a major national initiative of Health and Human Services, linking health and human services and rural information in a one-stop web-based format.

## Poverty

- RUPRI's Rural Poverty Research Center co-hosted two regional poverty conferences in Utah and Pennsylvania, funded one post doctoral fellow, four dissertation fellowships, and five undergraduate fellowships, continued its quarterly newsletter *Perspectives*, edited a special issue of International Regional Science Review focusing on rural Poverty, and collaborated with the Center for Social Development at Washington University, St. Louis, producing four papers on wealth building.
- RUPRI formed a Rural Human Services National Advisory Committee and held an initial meeting during October. The committee is comprised of national leaders in human services, workforce development, and integrative faith-based services, and will work in advancing the mission of the newly reconfigured RUPRI Rural Human Services and Poverty Policy Center.

## Rural Community Colleges

- The National Institute for Rural Community Colleges convened the first meeting of its development team, a joint collaboration between RUPRI, the Rural Community College Alliance, Alcorn State University and Mississippi State University. During the 3-day meeting, 40 national leaders, representing rural community college presidents and policy researchers worked to craft the initial institutional framework for NIRCC and formulate an integrative program of work.

## Informatics/ GIS

- RUPRI's Community Information Resource Center worked with the National Center for Rural Early Childhood Learning Initiatives to create an Early Childhood Atlas to guide responses during the 2005 hurricane season.

## Economic Development and Community Policy Analysis

- A Socio-Economic Benefits Assessment System has been designed for a project with USDA to assess the effectiveness of the Rural Business Programs on rural people and communities. USDA is considering applications of this model to other programs.
- The Community Policy Analysis Network published its book, *Community Policy Analysis Modeling*, documenting community level analytical tools and procedures, providing a reference for future modeling and analysis efforts, and providing examples of applications of the tools.

# RUPRI Rural Health Portfolio: RUPRI Rural Health Panel and RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis

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## RUPRI Rural Health Panel

**Andrew F. Coburn, Ph.D.**, is a professor of health policy and management and director of the Institute for Health Policy in the Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine.

**A. Clinton MacKinney, M.D., M.S.**, is a board-certified family physician delivering emergency medicine services in rural Minnesota and a senior consultant for Stroudwater Associates, a rural hospital consulting firm.

**Timothy D. McBride, Ph.D.**, is a professor of health management and policy in the School of Public Health at St. Louis University.

**Keith Mueller, Ph.D. (Chair)**, is a professor in the Department of Preventive and Societal Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the director of both the Nebraska Center for Rural Health Research and the RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis.

**Rebecca T. Slifkin, Ph.D.**, is the director of both the North Carolina Rural Health Research and Policy Analysis Center and the Program on Health Care Economics and Finance at the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a research associate professor in the Department of Social Medicine in the UNC-CH medical school.

**Mary K. Wakefield, Ph.D.**, is a professor and the director of the Center for Rural Health at the University of North Dakota.

## 2005 Accomplishments

The Panel's analysis of the Medicare Modernization Act has been the premier document for policy makers interested in improving that legislation. Much of the second half of 2005 was spent on a document completed in January 2006, an analysis of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) report on rural health. The Panel's work will provide guidance to national policy makers wanting to implement IOM recommendations.

The Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis' quick turnaround studies were instrumental in some policy debates and changes in public policy. The regulation implementing the new Part D benefit in Medicare was changed before final publication to follow a recommendation of a joint Policy Brief by RUPRI and North Carolina, changing the application of a rural criteria from regional to state-based. A joint brief by RUPRI, North Carolina, and the Walsh Center has informed an ongoing debate about policies regarding contracting between Medicare Advantage plans and Critical Access Hospitals. The RUPRI Center brief comparing Medicare Cost Report data to data from audited financial reports has rekindled a debate about the wisdom of relying on only one data source to set Medicare payment policy. The RUPRI Center continues to be the "go to" source for analysis of Medicare legislation and the impacts of changes in the Medicare Advantage program. The RUPRI Center organized congressional staff briefings for the eight federally funded rural health research centers. RUPRI is enhancing its role as an intermediary between researchers and policy makers.

## RUPRI Policy Briefs, Reports, White Papers, Policy Studies

P2005-1. Mueller KJ, Coburn AF, MacKinney AC, McBride TD, Slifkin RT, & Wakefield MK. (February 2005). Impacts of the Medicare Modernization Act on rural health systems and beneficiaries.

PB2005-2. Mueller KJ, & Bottsford L. (August 2005). Preparing for Medicare Part D: An opportunity for state offices of rural health and state rural health associations.

Shambaugh-Miller, M. (August 2005). Sentinel communities in rural America: Monitoring and improving the rural policy-place interface.

Hart JP, Mueller KJ, Fraser-Magin R, Skinner, AM, & Nardie S. (August 2005). Rural diabetes care management programs: An inventory of sample programs in six states.

## External Publications

Mueller KJ, & A. MacKinney C. (2005). Care across the continuum: Access to health care services in rural America. *Journal of Rural Health* 22(1), 43-49.

Mueller KJ, Coburn AF, MacKinney AC, McBride TD, Slifkin RT, & Wakefield MK. (2005). Understanding the impacts of the Medicare Modernization Act: Concerns of congressional staff. *Journal of Rural Health*, 21(3), 194-197.

Mueller KJ, McBride TD, Andrews C, Fraser R, & Xu L. (2005). The Federal Employees Health Benefits Program: A model for competition in rural America? *Journal of Rural Health*, 21(2), 105-113.

Mueller KJ, McBride TD. (in press). Changes in the Medicare program: Meeting new challenges in rural health care delivery. In Goins RT, et al., *Best Practice in Service Delivery to the Rural Elderly*.

### **Academic Posters**

Skinner AS, Hart JP, & Fraser-Maginn R. (2005, June). Barriers and adaptations of rural diabetes management programs. Poster session presented at the annual research meeting of AcademyHealth, Boston, MA.

### **Federal/State Policy Arena Testimony, Briefings, or Workshops**

Briefing for Senate Staff: Health Care Policy for the 21st Century (February 2005)

Briefing for House and Senate Staff: Impacts of the Medicare Modernization Act on Rural Programs and Constituencies (RUPRI Panel briefing. February 2005)

Briefing for House Staff: "Rural Health 101" (February 2005)

### **Presentations, Speeches**

MacKinney, Clint. "A Culture for Success." Hamakua Health Center, Honokaa, HI. January 2005.

Mueller, Keith. Breakout Session Presentation: Inequities in Health for Rural Populations: Can Policy Make a Difference? The Annual Chronic Disease Conference, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Atlanta, GA., February 2005.

McBride, Timothy. "Disparities in Rural Health." Washington University Medical School, Disparities Week. St. Louis, MO. February 2005.

Shambaugh-Miller, Michael. "The Impact of Pending Demographic and Policy Change in the Mercy Medical Center Service Area." Presentation to the Mercy Medical Center Strategic Planning Committee. Sioux City, IA. March 2005.

Shambaugh-Miller, Michael. "Region and Place in Rural Health Services Research." Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. Denver, CO. April 2005

MacKinney, Clint. "Medication Reconciliation." Nebraska Hospital Association, Lincoln, NE. April 2005.

Mueller, Keith. Panelist: "The National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services 2005 Report to the Secretary." Annual Conference of the National Rural Health Association. New Orleans, LA, May 2005.

MacKinney, Clint. "IOM - Rural Medical Education." National Rural Health Association, New Orleans, LA. May 2005.

MacKinney, Clint. "IOM - Rural Research Agenda." National Rural Health Association, New Orleans, LA. May 2005.

MacKinney, Clint. "The Road to Healthcare Quality/Safety via Leadership and Culture." National Rural Hospital Performance Improvement Conference, Chicago, IL. May 2005.

MacKinney, Clint. "Institute for Healthcare Improvement 100K Lives." National Rural Hospital Performance Improvement Conference, Chicago, IL. May 2005.

Mueller, Keith. Workshop Session Presentation, "Sentinel Communities Project in the U.S." The 4th International Rural Network Conference. Abingdon, VA, June 2005

Mueller, Keith. Presentation and discussion, "Changes in the Dynamics of Federal Rural Policy." Special Workshop: Rural America, Community Issues." Hosted by the Knight Center for Specialized Journalism and the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues. Washington, DC: The National Press Club. June 2005.

Mueller, Keith. General Session Presentation: "The Contribution of State Flex Programs to New Age Health Care." Third Annual Western Region Flex Conference. Phoenix, AZ. June 2005

McBride, Timothy. "The MMA and Rural America - The Medicare Modernization Act, the Prescription Drug Benefit,

and Access to Care." Presentation for the Health Policy Fellowship, West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, Lewisburg, WV. June 2005.

McBride, Timothy. "Is the Sky Falling? - Rising Health Care Spending and Planning for the Future." Nebraska City, NE. July 2005.

MacKinney, Clint. "The Institute of Medicine Quality Through Collaboration: Ya, Sure, Minnesota Can Do That!" Minnesota Rural Health Association, Duluth, MN. July 2005.

MacKinney, Clint. "Institute for Healthcare Improvement '100K Lives' Campaign for Rural Hospitals." Minnesota Rural Health Association, Duluth, MN. July 2005.

Mueller, Keith. Presentation: "The Future of Rural Health: The MMA As a Change Agent." OHRP All Programs Meeting. Washington, DC, August 2005.

### **Facilitations, Technical Assistance Projects Completed**

Member (Mueller), Advisory Panel on Medicare Education. Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Member (Mueller), Government Affairs Committee, Quality Steering Committee, and Conference Planning Committee, National Rural Health Association

Health Panel Meeting, Washington, DC. Agenda: Write policy paper, *Impacts of the Medicare Modernization Act on Rural Health Systems and Beneficiaries*; prepare presentation based on policy paper; present briefing to House and Senate staff. February 2005.

Health Panel Meeting, Annapolis, MD. Agenda: Document planning—(1) response to IOM report, (2) definition of rural, and (3) Medicaid. May 2005.

Health Panel Meeting, Portland, ME. Agenda: Writing IOM and Medicaid documents. September 2005.

### **Other Projects Completed**

12/04: Rural Hospital Issues Group facilitation

06/05: Rural Hospital Issues Group facilitation

### **Goals for 2006**

The RUPRI Panel will be working on two major projects in 2006: analysis of the rural implications of reforms to the Medicaid program, and a composite of definitions of rural used in federal programs.

The RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis will be working on three projects as part of the FY 2006 work plan, and two projects as part of the FY 2007 work plan. The five projects are as follows:

- Tracking developments in the MMA, including working with North Carolina to assess impacts on local independent pharmacies
- Developing a methodology to assess costs and benefits of implementing electronic health records in Nebraska
- Mapping the location of all rural pharmacies in the US, by type of ownership
- Examining hospital admissions due to ambulatory care sensitive conditions
- Analysis of initial enrollment into Part D plans

The Center will also participate in an application in the spring, along with the other analytic research centers, for ORHP support to continue to complete quick turnaround studies of current policy questions. The RUPRI Center will also launch a new project, "Sentinel Communities," during 2006, assuming foundation support is secured (we will be seeking the support during March – May).

# RUPRI Center for Rural Entrepreneurship

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Deb Markley, Managing Director and Director of Research  
Don Macke, Director of Practitioner Programs and Project Director for HomeTown Competitiveness Program  
Brian Dabson, Associate Director of RUPRI  
Karen Dabson, Director of Program Development & Marketing  
Craig Schroeder, Senior Associate  
Erik Pages, Senior Fellow

## 2005 Accomplishments

- Co-published a book (together with a companion website), *Energizing Entrepreneurs: Charting a Course for Rural Communities*, a guide for community leaders and economic development practitioners who are interested in creating entrepreneurship development strategies for their rural communities.
- With a grant from the Northwest Area Foundation, the Center is in the process of preparing case studies of promising rural entrepreneurship initiatives, creating a national database of programs and systems, pulling together a national cadre of researchers, and has convened a meeting of leading community practitioners in Minnesota, Iowa, and the Dakotas.
- The Center has conducted six Home Town Competitiveness Academies, eight *Energizing Entrepreneurship* Workshops, and a six-month state academy in Maryland; Center staff made over 30 presentations at conferences across the country.
- The Center provided advice to the Regional Rural Development Centers in preparation for the National Coalition for Rural Entrepreneurship listening sessions across the country; the Center has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Western Rural Development Center to promote entrepreneurship development in the rural West.

## Publications

Deborah Markley, Don Macke, and Vicki Luther, *E<sup>2</sup> Energizing Entrepreneurs: Charting a Course for Rural Communities*, September 2005.

Don Macke, Deborah Markley, and Erik Pages, *Enterprise Facilitation™ in Kansas: Lessons and Recommendations*, September 2005.

Brian Dabson, "Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Rural America," *Economic Development America*, Winter 2005.

## Presentations

Deb Markley, *Entrepreneurship Development in Rural America: Lessons from the Field*, Keynote Presentation, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation Workshop, *Strategies for Business Innovation: Energizing Entrepreneurship in Rural Minnesota*, Mankato, MN, February 15, 2005. A regional convening of approximately 100 participants

Brian Dabson, *Networks, Systems, Strings...and Other Appalachian Futures*, Keynote Address, Central Appalachian Roundtable, *Policy Innovations for Sustainable Entrepreneurship*, Walkersville, WV, February 8-9, 2005.

Deb Markley, *Energizing Entrepreneurship in South Carolina: Lessons from the Field*, Presentation to the Passport to Progress, 2005 Governor's Rural Summit, Georgetown, South Carolina, March 7, 2005. Statewide rural development conference with approximately 200 attendees.

Brian Dabson, *The Meaning of Entrepreneurship*, Presentation to the Texas Entrepreneurship Summit: Expanding Economic Opportunity, Austin, Texas, March 29, 2005.

Deb Markley, *Entrepreneurship Development in Rural America: Lessons for Maine*, Presentation to the Entrepreneurship: The Spirit of Maine Conference, Fairfield, Maine, April 8, 2005. Approximately 100 community college representatives.

Deb Markley, *Energizing Entrepreneurship: Concepts and Fundamentals and Energizing Entrepreneurship:*

*Strategies for Development*, Presentation to the 10th Annual Tennessee Rural Development Conference, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN, April 14, 2005. . Statewide conference with approximately 125 attendees.

Brian Dabson, *Thinking Strategically: Networks, Systems, and Strings in Community Economic Development*, Presentation to the 17th Annual Community Economic Development Conference, Kansas Center for Community Economic Development, Junction City, Kansas, April 14, 2005

Brian Dabson, *Closing Remarks*, Presentation to the Striking the Right Notes on Entrepreneurship Conference, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Memphis, Tennessee, April 18-20, 2005.

Deb Markley, *Energizing Entrepreneurship in Rural America: Lessons from the Field and Federal Policy in Support of Entrepreneurship: What is the Role?*, Presentation to the Striking the Right Notes on Entrepreneurship Conference, Memphis, Tennessee, April 19-20, 2005.

Brian Dabson, *Revitalizing Rural Economies through Entrepreneurship and Regionalism*, Presentation to the Third Annual Rural Development Conference, USDA Rural Development and The University of Southern Mississippi , Vicksburg , Mississippi , April 21, 2005.

Brian Dabson, *Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Collaboration in Rural America*, Presentation to the California Statewide Economic Vitality Conversation, Sacramento, California, April 28, 2005.

Brian Dabson, *Both/And Not Either/Or*, Presentation to the Association for Enterprise Opportunity, Annual Conference, Portland, Oregon, May 13, 2005. Annual conference of the trade association for microenterprise.

Brian Dabson, *Entrepreneurship in Rural America* , Presentation to the Entrepreneurship & E-Commerce: Building and Expanding Economic Opportunities, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, May 16, 2005.

Brian Dabson, *Entrepreneurship as a Core Economic Development Strategy for Rural America*, Presentation to the Advisory Committee for the Strengthening America's Communities, Clearwater, Florida, June 2, 2005.

Deb Markley, *Local Strategies for Responding to Rural Restructuring: The Role for Entrepreneurship*, Presentation to the Global Restructuring in Rural America Conference, USDA, Washington, D.C., June 6, 2005. Regional conference with approximately 70 participants.

Deb Markley, *Entrepreneurship as a Rural Economic Development Strategy: An Overview and Building a Local Program: Georgia 's Entrepreneur and Small Business Coordinating Network*, Presentations to the IRN Conference, June 23, 2005.

Brian Dabson, *Energizing Entrepreneurship*, Presentation to the Utah Rural Summit, Cedar City, Utah, August 11, 2005.

Karen Dabson, *Generating and Sustaining Entrepreneurship in Rural America*, Presentation to Rural Entrepreneurship Across Indiana summit, Indianapolis, Indiana, August 30, 2005.

Deb Markley, *Energizing Entrepreneurs as a Rural Economic Development Strategy*, Presentation to the Southern Institute for Rural Development, West Monroe, Louisiana, September 13, 2005.

### **Facilitations and Trainings**

**HomeTown Competitiveness Academies** were conducted in Nebraska, Colorado, Maine, Kansas, Texas and Wyoming, with over 400 local and regional practitioners in attendance.

**E2 Energizing Entrepreneurship workshops** were conducted in Nevada, Georgia, Illinois, Tennessee, Utah, and Nebraska with over 650 local, regional, and state practitioners and policymakers in attendance.

Two **Maryland Rural Entrepreneurship Academies** were held to help state and community leaders craft an entrepreneurship strategy.

## 2005 Center Projects and Activities

### Northwest Area Foundation project

- Inventory of entrepreneurship projects in region with 3-5 case studies
- Development of project database
- National/regional practitioners and research/policy convenings

### New Website

- Launched new website concurrent with book release: [www.energizingentrepreneurs.org](http://www.energizingentrepreneurs.org)

### Collaborative Data Projects with:

- Michael Camp, Ohio State University, to have rural analysis of his datasets
- Jason Henderson, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, on Census datasets

### Western Rural Entrepreneurship Initiative

- Collaboration with the Western Rural Development Center, John Allen, Director
- Engaged in inventorying entrepreneurship activities in region
- Planned case studies of innovative activities
- Assistance with training in region

### HomeTown Competitiveness

- Support and training for entrepreneurship component of project and senior management team leadership

*The HomeTown Competitiveness Collaborative was one of six W. K. Kellogg Foundation grant recipients to promote rural entrepreneurship across America*

### Missouri CEED

- Review of community project proposals
- Training for community teams
- On-site technical assistance and training
- Research and development of case studies
- Project evaluation

### Missouri Conversations regarding Entrepreneurship

- Facilitating listening sessions in collaboration with regional planning commissions

### Advisory Group

- Recruited new members with initial conference call in September and meeting in December

## Goals and Strategic Directions for 2006

- Continue to promote entrepreneurship as a core rural economic development strategy through presentations, speeches and policy engagement at state and federal levels.
- Expand/refine the Energizing Entrepreneurship training programs of the Center and develop strategic collaborative partnerships to help deliver Energizing Entrepreneurship training programs.
- Define and implement an expanded research agenda for rural entrepreneurship, beginning with potential collaboration on entrepreneurship research conference with ERS, and identify grant monies to fully fund the Center's research activities.
- Create a National Rural Entrepreneurship Practitioners Network to engage and provide value to practitioners throughout North America.
- Continue to collaborate with and support RUPRI centers, panels and core to better leverage our collective work.
- Raise additional foundation support for Center core operations.
- Transition from old to new website and use new site to better engage with practitioners and others electronically.
- Emphasize development of robust research and training agendas to meet the needs of the field.
- Expand our capacity throughout strategic partnerships, specifically the advisory group (already convened), Energizing Entrepreneurs training team (under development), and Research team (under development).
- Focus the Center's policy work at the state and local levels and support RUPRI's work at the federal level; create a rural entrepreneurship panel to respond to federal policy initiatives.

# RUPRI Community Information Resource Center

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## CIRC Staff

### ***Christopher Fulcher, Ph.D.***

Director and Research Assistant  
Professor, Harry S. Truman School  
of Public Affairs.

### ***Erin Wilson, M.S.***

Program Coordinator and  
Geographic Information Systems  
(GIS) Specialist.

### ***Ann Peton, B.A.***

Program Coordinator (Former)

## Affiliated Staff

### ***Michael Barbaro, M.S.***

GIS Specialist, Center for  
Agricultural, Resource and  
Environmental Systems (CARES).

### ***Christopher Barnett, M.S.***

Co-Director, CARES and Research  
Associate.

### ***Yan Barnett, M.S.***

Senior Spatial Analyst, CARES and  
Research Associate.

### ***Dave Connett, M.S.***

GIS Specialist CARES.

### ***Kristopher Dolle, M.S.***

GIS Specialist CARES.

### ***Chad Landgraf, M.S.***

GIS Analyst, Oklahoma Rural  
Health Policy and Research  
Center, Oklahoma State University.

### ***Kathy Miller, M.S.***

Program Director, RUPRI

### ***Stan Wood, B.S.***

Systems Administrator CARES.

## 2005 Accomplishments

The Community Information Resource Center (CIRC) links public information and spatial dynamics for timely policy decision-support, through interactive visualization and spatial analysis.

- New CIRC website: Staff revamped the main CIRC website. In addition, the Internet Mapping stability and functionality was significantly improved. (<http://circ.rupri.org/>).
- Generated cartographic products for RUPRI stakeholders, conducted spatial and other analyses, assisted users in using the CIRC Internet Mapping functionality and addressed other short-term requests for assistance.
- Rural Early Childhood Atlas Initiative: Revised the current user interface, created a report generator tool, created static maps, and added new datasets to the information system. (<http://earlychildhood.msstate.edu/atlas/>).
- Rural Assistance Center Mapping Initiative: Renewed scope of work to be completed 8/31/06. In the process of collecting, updating and modifying health and human services datasets. We are also in the process of developing an "Am I Rural" dynamic report and Internet mapping interface which includes a number of rural definitions. (<http://www.raonline.org/maps/>).
- Central Missouri Food Bank: Assisted the food bank in conducting an analysis of community and faith-based health and health-related services in their 29-county service area. The information obtained allows the food bank to develop funding priorities that builds upon the internal capacity necessary to better serve community members. An Internet mapping and Access data entry interface were created as part of this effort. (<http://ims.missouri.edu/cmfb/default.asp>).
- National Institute for Rural Community Colleges (NIRCC): Developed an Internet mapping interface to facilitate analyses of Publicly-Controlled Two-Year College Campuses in the U.S. with respect to a number of socio-economic, demographic, health characteristics. The Internet-based Geographic Information System (GIS) enables practitioners and researchers in analyzing important place-related and institutional data about community and technical colleges. (<http://circ.rupri.org/nircc/>).

## Publications, Proceedings and Reports

Fulcher, Christopher. "Mapping the Losses: The Early Childhood Atlas." Proceedings of the Rural Early Childhood Forum on Hurricane Recovery and Emergency Preparedness, Mobile, AL, December 5, 2005.

Fulcher, Christopher and Catherine Kaukinen. "Mapping and Visualizing the Location of HIV Service Providers: An Exploratory Spatial Analysis of Toronto Neighborhoods." *AIDS Care*. 17:3 (April 2005):386-396.

Franken, Jason, Joe Parcell, Michael Sykuta, and Christopher Fulcher. "Grain Market Integration: Case Studies of Structural Change." *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics Review*. 34 (2005) 1-14.

Kaukinen, Catherine and Christopher Fulcher. "Mapping the Social Demography and Location Of HIV Services Across Toronto Neighbourhoods." *Health and Social Care in the Community*. (in press).

### **Federal/State Policy Arena Testimony, Briefings, or Workshops**

Fulcher, Christopher and Erin Wilson. "A Dynamic Atlas of Community Knowledge: A Workshop for using Internet GIS as a Tool for Decision Support." Workshop: Third International Community Indicators Conference, Burlington, Vermont, December 1-3, 2005.

Fulcher, Christopher. "The Use of Internet Mapping in Support of Rural Healthcare and Public Policy Development." Twenty-eighth Annual Rural Hospital Conference, Breckenridge, Colorado, May 5, 2005.

Peton, Ann. Conducted training and workshops on the use of CIRC's internet mapping and GIS for rural healthcare and community development in the following states: Arizona, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Colorado

Peton, Ann. Conducted a workshop for staff and students of Eastern Tennessee State University on GIS and CIRC's internet mapping capabilities for rural healthcare and medicine

Peton, Ann. Conducted a workshop with the National Geospatial One-Stop Program at the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) annual meeting on CIRC's internet mapping

Peton, Ann. Conducted training, created presentations and maps for the American Osteopathic Association's various board, committee, and staff meetings.

### **Presentations**

Essien, Joyce and Christopher Fulcher. "The Public Good in Information Systems and Community Processes." Third International Community Indicators Conference, Burlington, Vermont, December 1-3, 2005.

Fulcher, Christopher. "Mapping the Losses: The Early Childhood Atlas." Proceedings of the Rural Early Childhood Forum on Hurricane Recovery and Emergency Preparedness, Mobile, AL, December 5, 2005.

Fulcher, Christopher and Erin Wilson (*Co-presenters*). "Place-based Storytelling: Visualizing and Mapping your College Community." 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Rural Community College Alliance, Duluth, Minnesota, September 11-13, 2005.

Grace, Cathy, Elizabeth Shores and Christopher Fulcher (*Co-presenters*). "Using Data to Drive Policy: New Tools You Can Use." The National Registry Alliance 2005 Conference, Kansas City, Missouri, July 19, 2005.

Peton, Ann. Co-presented with Dr. Cathy Grace, Director of the National Rural Early Childhood Education Center, at the National Association of Community Development Professionals annual conference on the Early Childhood Mapping Initiative

Peton, Ann. Co-presented with Dr. Cathy Grace, Director of the National Rural Early Childhood Education Center, Dr. Kathy Thornburg, Director of Missouri's Center for Family Policy and Research, and Elizabeth Shores at the annual National Association for the Education of Young Children

Peton, Ann. Co-presented with RHRC and HEIP staff on the Minnesota Healthcare Workforce initiative at the National Rural Health Association annual meeting

Peton, Ann. Co-presented with RHRC and HEIP staff on the Minnesota Healthcare Workforce initiative and the Minneapolis Region Healthcare Workforce forum and conducted a training session for HEIP partners and state agency staff on GIS and Internet Mapping.

Peton, Ann. "Internet Mapping: An Infrastructure of Support for Early Childhood Education." The National Registry Alliance 2005 Conference, Kansas City, Missouri, July 19, 2005.

### Goals for 2006

The Community Information Resource Center will continue work on the following major externally funded projects:

- Rural Early Childhood Atlas Initiative: Complete Phase III contract and anticipate beginning Phase IV scope of work beginning June 2006. The goal of the continuation is to: (1) expand the number of state-level datasets in the Atlas; (2) improve Internet mapping and report generator functionality; and (3) respond to short-term requests for analysis and cartographic products.
- Rural Assistance Center Mapping Initiative: Complete scope of work for 8/31/06 which includes updating databases, maps and completing the "Am I Rural" effort. Anticipate continued funding after August '06 to improve functionality and usability and expand the number of health and human service datasets.
- National Institute for Rural Community Colleges (NIRCC): (1) Update of the community college database in order to align it with the new 2005 Carnegie Classifications for two-year colleges; (2) Add as many of the statutory community college service area boundaries to the interactive mapping system as is possible; (3) With input from the NIRCC Presidential Panel, create a system through which institutional stakeholders can call customized reports that provide meaningful, multi-faceted profiles of the areas served by two-year colleges (these reports will bring together geographic, demographic, economic, healthcare-related, primary/secondary school, two-year institution, and other data in one concise, easy-to-read format); and (4) Enhance the outputs of the interactive mapping system and the display of community college data within the system. Anticipate continued funding after August '06.

CIRC will also continue to work on the following activities in 2006:

- Identify and collaborate with appropriate intermediaries (e.g., United Way) to develop a throughput for integrating and maintaining community or regional-level social service data in the CIRC Internet GIS. This disturbed data entry approach will provide a basis for conducting comparative analyses across communities.
- Focus on developing targeted portals with discrete customized user interfaces for specific applications rather than lump data in the main "Interactive Mapping" application.
- Coordinate with RUPRI researchers to identify and implement projects based on scope of work, budget and timeline for the proposed project.
- Assist RUPRI stakeholders in making maps, conducting spatial and other analyses, assisting users in using the CIRC Internet Mapping functionality and addressing other short-term requests for assistance.
- Improve the report generator and Internet mapping tools and functionality across all applications as technologies improve and staff learns new ways of integrating code into these information systems.
- Complete the development of an online metadata server. This effort is very important for helping users understand the quality of the datasets they are using (metadata is often defined as data about data).
- Improve the Online Data Creation functionality by incorporating Google Map source code into CIRC's Internet GIS. The public release of Google Map's API and its integration will significantly enhance the users' ability to digitize new points, lines, and polygons in the CIRC mapping applications. In addition, the user can add intelligence to these features by adding attribute fields and associated data.
- Create and implement new data visualization tools for policy makers using (e.g., animations and cartograms).

# RUPRI Rural Poverty Research Center (RPRC)

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## RPRC Co-Directors

Brian Dabson, Associate Director,  
RUPRI

Bruce Weber, Professor of Agriculture  
& Resource Economics, Oregon  
State University

## RPRC Advisory Board

Rebecca Blank, Co-Director, National  
Poverty Center, University of  
Michigan

David Dodson, President, MDC, Inc.

Cynthia Duncan, Director, The Carsey  
Institute, University of New  
Hampshire

Jennifer Noyes, Institute for Research  
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Hampshire

Leif Jensen, Professor of Rural  
Sociology and Director of the  
Population Research Institute, Penn  
State University

Dan Lichter, Director, Bronfenbrenner  
Life Course Center, Cornell  
University

*RPRC was founded with support from  
the Office of the Assistant Secretary for  
Planning and Evaluation, HHS*

## 2005 Accomplishments

- RPRC staff, fellows, and affiliates produced eight working papers and five peer reviewed journal articles
- Three Ph.D. candidates were chosen as 2005-2006 Dissertation Fellows
- Two regional poverty conferences were hosted by RPRC in collaboration with regional rural development centers in the West and Northeast
- RPRC contributed four papers to the Wealth Building in Rural America project at the Center for Social Development at Washington University, St. Louis
- RPRC produced four issues of *Perspectives on Poverty, Policy and Place*, the quarterly newsletter of the Rural Poverty Research Center

## Publications

- Crandall, Mindy S. and Bruce A. Weber. March 2005. "Trickling Down: Does Local Job Growth Reduce Poverty?" RPRC Working Paper No. 05-01.
- Partridge, Mark D. and Dan S. Rickman. January 2005. "Persistent Pockets of Extreme American Poverty: People or Place Based?" RPRC Working Paper No. 05-02.
- Sherman, Jennifer. May 2005. Men Without Sawmills: Masculinity, Rural Poverty, and Family Stability. RPRC Working Paper No. 05-03.
- Fisher, Monica. May 2005. Why is U.S. Poverty Higher in Nonmetropolitan than Metropolitan Areas? Evidence from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics. RPRC Working Paper No. 05-04.
- Davis, Liz, and Stacie Bosley. June 2005. "The Impact of the 1990s Economic Boom on Less-Educated Workers in Rural America." RPRC Working Paper No. 05-05.
- Gunderson, Craig. June 2005. "Are the Effects of the Macroeconomy and Social Policies on Poverty Different in Rural America?" RPRC Working Paper No. 05-06.
- Crowley, Martha L., Daniel T. Lichter, and Zhenchao Qian. June 2005. "Beyond Gateway Cities: Economic Restructuring and Poverty Among Mexican Immigrant Families and Children." RPRC Working Paper No. 05-07.
- Berube, Alan. December 2005. "The Tax Code as Social Policy in Rural America." RPRC Working Paper No. 05-08.
- Weber, Bruce, "Poverty, Policy, and Place: A Symposium", International Regional Science Review, 28(4), October 2005

Weber, Bruce, Leif Jensen, Kathleen Miller, Jane Mosley, and Monica Fisher, "A Critical Review of Rural Poverty Literature: Is There Truly a Rural Effect?", *International Regional Science Review*, 28(4), forthcoming October 2005

Crandall, Mindy S. and Bruce A. Weber. "Poverty in the West: Changing Fortunes from 1990 – 2000." *Western Economics Forum*, 4(1) Spring 2005: 25-34.

Fisher, Monica. "On the Empirical Finding of a Higher Risk of Poverty in Rural Areas: Is Rural Residence Endogenous to Poverty?" *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 30(2) August 2005: 185-199.

Fisher, Monica. "Is Rural Residence Endogenous to Poverty? A Reply." *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 30(2) August 2005: 202-204.

Contributions to the Center for Social Development's Wealth Building in Rural America Project:

- Dabson, Brian (2005). "Enhancing the Value of the Rural Experience through Improved Connectivity."
- Miller, Kathleen K. & Brian Dabson (2005). "Age as Asset: The Contribution of Youth and Retirees to Rural Well-Being."
- Miller, Kathleen K. (2005). "Immigrants in Rural America: finding A Foothold, Creating a Home."
- Schumacher, Jean & Ann Ulmer (2005). "Successful Examples of Wealth Building in Rural Areas."

### Conferences

The Western Poverty Conference was held April 7-8, 2005 in Logan, UT, co-sponsored with the Western Rural Development Center. Participation was also available online to those who could not travel to Logan. Western poverty researchers and community and policy leaders engaged in framing the research that would inform community and state/national policies around the following general themes:

- Framing Poverty in the West Poverty in the Rural West at the Beginning of the 21st Century
- Poverty & Tribal Communities
- Networks & Poverty
- Natural Resource Dependent Communities & Poverty
- Latinos & Poverty

The Northeastern Poverty Conference was held May 3-4 in State College, PA, co-sponsored with the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development and the Population Research Institute at Penn State University. The conference explored what is known from current research about the causes and effects of rural poverty in the Northeast and what needs to be known in order to design more effective policies. Topics focused on:

- The Impacts of Big Box Retailers on Incomes
- Job Opportunities
- Community Capacity
- Survival Strategies for Low-Income Rural Families

### Presentations, Speeches, Facilitations

Weber, Bruce. "Natural Resource Dependence and Rural Poverty: Some Reflections and a Research Agenda" Presented at Western Rural Development Conference, Logan, Utah. April 7-8, 2005.

Weber, Bruce. "People Prosperity v. Place Prosperity Revisited: Do Place-based Policies Reduce Rural Poverty?" Presented at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs, Rural Poverty: What Policies are Effective in Reducing Rural Poverty. July 19, 2005.

RPRC worked with the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute to design a research project on reducing rural poverty in the Northwest, a project funded by the Northwest Area Foundation.

## Mentoring

Three RPRC Dissertation Fellows were selected for the 2005-2006 academic year:

- Allison De Marco, University of California, Berkeley, School of Social Welfare: "Child Care Options and Choices for Families on Welfare in Two Rural California Communities."
- Christine Pegoraro Schull, University of Maryland, Department of Family Studies: "School Readiness: Impacting Child Well-Being for Rural Low-Income Families."
- Deborah Harris, Mississippi State University, Department of Sociology: "Welfare-Exiting Strategies in the Rural Context: Work or Marriage?"

RPRC hosted a symposium for past and current RPRC fellows in May in State College, PA. The purpose of the symposium was to discuss ways of building and supporting a national community of scholars working to alleviate poverty in rural America and to bring RPRC fellows into contact with leading scholars who gathered for the Northeast Rural Poverty Conference.

## Dissemination

RPRC continued regular updates to the website ([www.rprconline.org](http://www.rprconline.org)); and four issues of *Perspectives on Poverty, Policy and Place* were published. The newsletters featured presentations given at a principal paper session organized by RPRC at the American Agricultural Economics Association annual meeting, presentations from the two regional poverty conferences, and summaries of recent RPRC working papers.

## Goals and Strategic Directors for 2006

RPRC will complete four small grants projects:

- Access to Social Services in the West (Scott W. Allard, Brown University). This project will use survey data to examine service provision and accessibility in two different western rural areas.
- Poverty, Community, and Social Change (Cynthia M. Duncan and Chris Colocousis, University of New Hampshire.). This commissioned paper will review the literature on poverty and community, and on factors in communities that alleviate poverty.
- Work Support, Program Participation and Employment Stability of Low-income Single Parents in Urban and Rural Areas. (Liz Davis, University of Minnesota and Deana Grobe, Oregon State University). This commissioned paper will address the comparative experience of rural and urban families in Oregon.
- Assessing Community Capacity in Rural America: Lessons from the Canadian New Rural Economy Program for a Sentinel Communities Project (Bruce Weber, Oregon State University). This commissioned paper will review the New Rural Economic program experience looking for lessons to inform the design of a U.S. rural observatory.

RPRC will continue the development of the Rural Human Services and Poverty Policy Center, which will continue activities in research, mentoring, communication and practice. The Center will work with the Rural Assistance Center to provide an information portal and technical assistance brokerage on rural human services and poverty issues.

Research and policy analysis will concentrate in four main areas:

- The role of community capacity and local institutions in poverty alleviation
- The effectiveness of work-supports in rural areas
- Asset accumulation and protection among poor rural households; and
- Measures to reduce persistent poverty in rural regions.

# RUPRI State Policy Programs

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Goal: To encourage and enable state policymakers to develop and implement conscious and informed state rural policies, and create a cadre of state rural champions in support of national policy.

Bobby Gierisch,  
Director of RUPRI  
State Policy  
Programs

## Five-Year Vision: State Policy Programs

- Every state legislature has a core group of members in each chamber working together on place-based rural issues.
- Every state has a "center" doing place-based rural research, policy development and program development. Centers may be state agencies or offices, non-profits, or divisions within institutions of higher education. Centers should work hand-in-hand with legislators on state policy.
- There is a mechanism for communication and basic coordination of rural stakeholders across sectors and institutional boundaries in each state.
- State legislators understand federal issues of importance to rural areas and communicate with their congressional delegations on those issues.
- State legislators understand the challenges of local officials and community-based groups and are supportive of local efforts and initiatives.
- State legislators and state rural centers are a part of, and are supported by, a nationwide learning and sharing network.
- State institutions of higher education and major philanthropic organizations are engaged in rural research, policy and programming.

2005 saw a strengthening and broadening of the state policy work begun in 2004. Interest in rural policy remains relatively high in many state capitals, due in large part to continuing economic distress in the countryside. RUPRI has responded with continuing service to rural state legislators. We created an important new state policy platform with the establishment of the Coalition of State Rural Policy Centers.

For the first time ever, RUPRI convened a meeting of the eight "largest and best" state rural policy offices. States represented were North Carolina, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Minnesota, Utah, Texas and Louisiana. The eight met for the first time in May in Raleigh, NC, and with the addition of the new Indiana office (see below) again in November in Warrenton, VA. At the Virginia meeting, the executive directors enthusiastically endorsed the concept of a continuing collaboration for mutual learning and shared research and funding opportunities. The Coalition met in Austin, Texas on March 2-3, 2006.

A new Office of Rural Affairs was created by the Indiana legislature, with Lt. Governor Becky Skillman serving as its chief executive. By combining seven existing programs and providing resources for expansion, Indiana is creating an office that will be a worthy example to other states. RUPRI has been privileged to assist the office at the earliest stages of its planning and its development of strategic plans for rural Indiana.

In Alabama, Senate President Lowell Barron led an effort to create a rural policy office for his state. We were privileged to be consulted on this project from the earliest stages. The initiative came up short due to partisan issues unrelated to the legislation, but efforts will be renewed in 2006 with a good chance of success.

The Rural Development Working Group created as a result of our 2004 Rural Policy Forum with the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) now advocates the creation of rural policy offices in all southern states. SLC provides technical support for such efforts, and RUPRI is a part of that technical support.

RUPRI continued its partnership with the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) to stage a second annual Legislative Rural Policy Academy. The Academy was held in Seattle, WA, and financially supported by the Northwest Area Foundation. Thirty-seven (37) legislators from twenty-three (23) states participated in the one-day seminar. Participants included two House speakers, one House majority leader and one Senate President. The response to the seminar was overwhelmingly positive.

RUPRI provided rural development programming for the third annual Agriculture Chairs Summit in Memphis. The Summit was attended by approximately 80 state agriculture committee chairs or their designees, representing over

40 states. Delegates from Mexico, Canada and the Virgin Islands also attended. Presentations on state rural policy innovations by Billy Ray Hall, Joe Sertich and Brian Dabson were well received.

The legislative meetings referenced above have provided high-quality exposure to legislators in almost every state. We can count rural 'friends' or 'champions' in more than 20 state legislatures, with 'multiples' now in many states. In addition to the potential for favorable state policy action, this base of legislator champions can be influential at the national and local levels as well.

The state policy emphases to date have been (1) research related to promising state practices, with an increasing focus on state policy centers, and (2) education and leadership development for state legislators. These are appropriate and necessary emphases for the coming year as well. Strengthening and broadening the base of the rural centers network will be an important goal.

In terms of strategic direction, we believe the following are noteworthy:

- The legislator audience has gone significantly beyond the traditional agriculture base (and the traditional agriculture base has gone significantly beyond traditional agriculture!).
- While maintaining our presence in the Southeastern states, new and stronger connections in Indiana, Illinois, Oregon, Washington and Idaho give us new presence in the Midwest and far Northwest.
- Gender and ethnic diversity in our legislator audience has improved.
- We succeeded in attracting a new funding partner (Northwest Area Foundation) for the state policy portfolio.

### **Publications**

- Briefs describing and evaluating Louisiana Governor's Office of Rural Development, Texas Office of Rural Community Affairs, Rural Maryland Forum, and North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center (revised)
- "Rural Centers in the South", published by the Southern Legislative Conference (a compilation of the above briefs, with an introduction)

### **Federal / State Policy Arena Testimony, Briefings or Workshops**

- Presentation of research findings on state rural centers to staff of Texas Office of Rural Community Affairs
- Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit, Memphis, TN: represented RUPRI in all phases of planning and execution of two-day conference attended by approximately 80 state agriculture committee chairs or their designees from over 40 states, as well as representatives from Canada, Mexico and the Virgin Islands. With Chuck Fluharty, organized the program on rural development that featured Billy Ray Hall of the NC Rural Economic Development Center, Brian Dabson of RUPRI, and Joe Sertich, Pres., Northeast MN Higher Education District. Secured former Congressman Charles Stenholm for presentation on national ag policy.
- Facilitated Chuck Fluharty presentations to Texas Office of Rural Community Affairs Policy Symposium and to the Texas Legislative Rural Caucus in Austin, TX
- Convened and facilitated weekly discussions (through approximately two months) of policy effects of legislation pending in the Texas legislature with legislative staff, state agency personnel and private sector representatives

### **Presentations, Speeches, Facilitations**

- Keynote presentation of research findings and importance of state policy in rural development to "Rural Conference 2005: Helping Rural Communities Work!" sponsored by the Oregon Consortium and the Oregon Workforce Alliance, Austin, TX
- Presentation of research findings on state rural policy centers at International Rural Network Conference in Abbingdon, VA. Represented RUPRI and provided other technical and manual assistance at the conference.

- Presentation "Rural Policy and the States: What States are Doing and Why It's So Hard" to "Regards to Rural III" conference in Welches, OR; facilitated round-table discussion of state rural policy.
- Presentation "Lessons from Other States: It's a Guide, Not a Roadmap!" to stakeholder meeting and officials of Indiana Office of Rural Affairs, Indianapolis, IN
- Presentation "State Best Practices and the Importance of Private Investment" at the Texas Rural Summit
- Served as invited expert to Southern Legislative Conference Task Force on Rural Development. Task force determined to encourage all southern states to establish rural offices and to provide technical support. Requested that I provide rural center profiles as part of support (completed July 2005)
- Participated as a regular participant in a series of round-table discussions organized by the Texas Rural Development Council and USDA Rural Development in Texas
- Served on Steering Committee of Texas Rural Entrepreneurship Conference; facilitated breakout group discussion
- Served on team to consult with staff of Indiana Office of Rural Affairs and statewide stakeholders on development of strategic plans for rural Indiana, Indianapolis, IN
- Significant informal consultation provided for governors' and legislative staff in LA, OR, AL, and OK

### **2005 Projects and Activities**

- Planning session with senior staff of the Rural Governance Initiative in Columbia, MO
- Convened meeting with TX coop extension and Rural Community College Initiative officials to share information about projects and plans; made presentation of rural center research findings; College Station, TX
- Represented RUPRI at meetings of NCSL Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, Washington, DC and Seattle, WA.
- Convened meeting of eight state rural centers (NC, MD, PA, MN, LA, TX, UT and IL) in Raleigh, NC, to establish a network for mutual learning and sharing. This was a carry-over project from 2004. It will be on-going, but the creation of the network is successfully completed.
- Represented RUPRI at meetings of the CSG Agriculture and Rural Development Task Force in Lake Tahoe, CA; facilitated the approval of rural legislation from Maryland for inclusion in CSG's "Suggested State Legislation".
- Convened meeting of regional and community organizations from Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas to share information about projects and plans; made presentation of rural center research findings, Jefferson, TX.
- Fact-finding visit to the Nebraska Community Foundation
- State rural statistical profiles, begun in collaboration with Kathy Miller in 2004, have been completed for all 50 states by Ms. Miller

### **Goals and Strategic Directions for 2006**

- Continue work with Coalition of State Rural Policy Centers with goals to (1) consolidate and expand the collaborative and (2) promote a joint work plan for the collaborative with external funding; also identify new centers to expand the coalition.
- Continue to provide organizational and programming support for the 2007 Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit.
- Get three or more articles in print based on research on rural centers, model legislation, etc.
- Develop selective inventory of state RD initiatives with funding sources for presentation at 2006 Ag Chairs Summit, per request (preliminary report completed with help from Jonathan Hull at SLC, Kim White and Eric Beverly, both at ORCA, and presented to the Ag Chairs Summit in Phoenix)
- Develop selective inventory of model rural development legislation referenced above (responds to request of legislators for future programming)

# RUPRI Rural Governance Initiative

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## The Rural Governance Initiative aims to: Background

- research the relationship between how decisions are made (and with whom) and what results are achieved in the long-term;
- validate how governance impacts economic and social outcomes;
- facilitate governance conversations among community leaders, practitioners and policy-makers;
- disseminate guidance on effective local/regional governance practices; and,
- propose public policies that encourage and support effective governance practices

Nancy Stark, Director of the RUPRI Rural Governance Initiative

In spring 2004, RUPRI launched a new joint initiative on rural governance. The Rural Governance Initiative (RGI) seeks to understand how rural people and institutions make decisions about their collective well being, and in other words, the process of governance. Effective governance centers on the principles of *collaboration* (across sectors and geography), *sustained citizen engagement* (welcoming new voices including youth, grassroots visioning, undertaking concrete projects and celebrating results), and *leveraging regional resources* (capitalizing on competitive advantages, strengthening elected leaders, engaging intermediaries, investing in yourself).

## Publications

*Effective Rural Governance: What Is It? Does It Matter?* RGI framing paper posted on the RUPRI Web site at [http://www.rupri.org/ruralPolicy/publications/RGI\\_in\\_pdf.pdf](http://www.rupri.org/ruralPolicy/publications/RGI_in_pdf.pdf)

## 2005 Policy Education, Outreach

### Presentations, Speeches, Workshops

- RUPRI Sentinel Communities Research Consultation, March 10-11.
- Partnering with Non-Governmental Organizations, consultation with USDA Extension state program leaders for community resources and development, May 5.
- USDA Rural Development Center Directors meeting (by conference call), July 29.

### Facilitations, Technical Assistance Efforts

- Staff assistance to CFED's Entrepreneurial Development Systems project supported by the Kellogg Foundation, January-March 2005 (intermittent).
- Advisor to Southern Rural Development Initiative's Federal Funds and Rural Policy Education project, May 11 advisory meeting. Project is on-going.
- Consultation with elected leadership of Cascade County, Montana regarding their Northwest Area Foundation-supported program.
- Consultation with Pat Scully, Study Circles Resource Center regarding on how to build policy outcomes into the Study Circles process.

## 2005 Projects and Activities

The Rural Governance Initiative is leading a *Community Clustering Initiative* (CCI) to test the RGI's principles of effective governance in three multi-community clusters in the rural northwest. The CCI is conducting an assessment of the value of these principles, especially from the perspective of rural elected officials. This work is engaging community people from other sectors -- civic, business and youth -- but the CCI's primary objective is to influence rural government leaders such that rural governments put citizen engagement and poverty reduction higher on their list of priorities; and that rural communities see themselves within an economic and cultural region, and pursue prosperity-development strategies on a regional basis. With support from the Northwest Area Foundation, the CCI is focused on the following three regional clusters through April 2006:

### *Coos County, Oregon*

A cluster organized around the bifurcation between the county's "urban" (Coos Bay/North Bend) and rural (unincorporated region/small towns) regions. The regional intermediary is Rural Development Initiatives, with Bob Ault as lead staff.

### *Chamberlain-Oacoma Region, South Dakota*

A cluster organized around the south-central portion of the Missouri River. Member communities include Chamberlain, Oacoma, Reliance, Kimball and the Lower Brule Reservation Community. These communities are located in two counties, on each side of the Missouri River. They are just starting to collaborate around the economic opportunities provided by river. The regional intermediary is South Dakota Rural Enterprise, Inc. with Beth Davis as lead staff.

### *Jefferson County, Washington*

A cluster organized around the bifurcation between the county's "urban" (Port Townscend) and rural (southwestern, natural resource-based, partially tribal) regions. The regional intermediary is Washington State University's Community Learning Center (Extension), with Katherine Baril as lead staff.

## Goals for 2006

- In coordination with RUPRI staff, establish a RGI page on the RUPRI Web site with content for local/regional practitioners and state/federal policymakers.
- Create a RGI brochure, based on the framing paper, for distribution at workshops, conferences, etc.
- Continue to strengthen relationships with governance-related organizations: NACO, NADO, NLC, Aspen Institute Roundtable on Community Change, Rural Community College Alliance, etc. Capitalize on forthcoming rural-leader presidencies at several organizations.
- Explore stronger connections and perhaps joint projects between the RGI and other RUPRI programs and panels. For example, explore a RGI-Center for Rural Entrepreneurship collaboration on entrepreneurship-skill building among rural elected officials.

# RUPRI Community Policy Analysis Network (CPAN)

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## CPAN Goal

Create and sustain a national network of researchers to collaborate on the building of predictive models and tools to support better informed state and community policy-making. Over 50 researchers are part of the CPAN network, representing universities in 29 states.

## CPAN Leadership Team

**Steve Deller**, Professor, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Gerald Doeksen**, Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Oklahoma State University

**Tom Harris (Chair)**, Professor and Director, Center for Economic Development, University of Nevada Reno

**Tom Johnson**, Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics and Director, Community Policy Analysis Network, University of Missouri-Columbia

**Dan Otto**, Professor, Department of Economics, Iowa State University

## Publications

*Community Policy Analysis Modeling*, Edited by Thomas Johnson, Dan Otto, and Steve Deller

With the shifting of responsibility for designing, planning and managing federally funded programs to state and local government, there is a need for a new group of public servants and others to be aware of how to deal with these responsibilities and challenges. The book outlines and documents a set of community level analytical tools and procedures to assist local decision-making processes. The major goals of the book are to provide a reference for future community policy modeling and analysis efforts, and to provide a group of examples of applications of modeling. Chapters include:

- Introduction to Community Policy Analysis Modeling
- New Governance and the Changing Face of Rural America
- Patterns of Local Government Activities in the United States
- A National Infrastructure for Community Policy Analysis
- The Philosophy Underlying Community Policy Models
- Modeling the Local Labor Market
- Modeling the Public Sector
- The Show-Me Community Policy Analysis Model
- The Iowa Economic/Fiscal Impact Modeling System
- The Great Basin Fiscal Impact Model
- SAFESIM: The Small Area Fiscal Estimation Simulator
- Data Issues
- Software Development and Utilization
- Evaluating the Performance of Community Policy Models
- Scenario Development in Community Policy Analysis Models: When is a Cost Actually a Benefit?
- Applications of Community Policy Analysis Models: Three Case Studies

## Presentations

Tom Johnson and Tom Harris. "Cluster and Enterprise Targeting: What Are they and How to Use Them" Presentation at Economic Development Administration workshop *Energizing the Economy through Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer: What has been Tried? What has been Tested? What will Work?* Sparks, NV, August 2005

## Goals and Strategic Directions

Re-engage the CPAN network around current local, state, and national policy issues. Possible issues include:

- 2007 Farm Bill discussions
- Industrial targeting as a development strategies for rural areas
- Update and advance community impact models

# RUPRI National Policy Programs

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The RUPRI National Policy Programs office is the Washington D.C. presence for RUPRI, providing the interface between the broad range of RUPRI activities and the Administration and Congress.

Marcie McLaughlin,  
Director of National  
Policy Programs

Jocelyn Richgels,  
Associate Director of  
National Policy  
Programs

## 2005 Accomplishments

- Organized and implemented the International Rural Network Conference: *The Power of Place: Rural Communities, Global Reach*.
- RUPRI continued to provide ongoing policy decision support for Congressional Members and staff, as well as the White House and federal departments and agencies.
- RUPRI continued coordination of the National Rural Network, a consortium of over 50 national organizations, institutions, and not-for-profits working to create an improved framework for national rural policy. In 2005 RUPRI provided coordination for an NRN document analyzing the Administration's 2006 budget.
- RUPRI hosted a *Rural Regional Innovation Policy Dialogue*, and convened the Rural Human Services Advisory Committee.
- RUPRI signed an MOU with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture to frame a five-year program of work for a new collaboration, *the Alliance for the Rural Americas*.

## Publications

*Why Rural Matters: The Rural Impact of the Administration's FY-6 Budget Proposal*. The document reflects over twenty members' responses to the administration's budget. A press conference and staff briefing were held to release the information.

*Winning Rural Development Strategies from the European Union*. This paper was written for the Maine Center for Economic Policy, August 2005.

## Policy Education and Outreach

RUPRI provided testimony to the House Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management regarding the Administration's *Strengthening America's Communities* Initiative (SACI) and also to the Commerce Secretary's SACI Advisory Committee.

A group of RUPRI Fellows, made up of the leadership of key membership organizations (National League of Cities, National Association of Development Organizations, National Association of Counties, National Conference of State Legislatures, Rural Community College Alliance, National Rural Health Association), traveled to Brussels to be briefed by EU officials and academics on current agriculture and rural development policy.

## Conferences

*The Power of Place: Rural Communities...Global Reach*. Building on the previous three conferences, this conference was designed to bring together practitioners from rural communities with rural policy makers and scholars. The conference emphasized the sharing of practical experiences while highlighting the role of place and place-based innovation in local development, rural health, education, culture and environment, with attention to implications for rural policy and governance. The conference was attended by over 400 people from 40 countries and 35 states.

RUPRI convened the *Rural Regional Innovation Policy Dialogue*, including elected leaders and CEOs from the National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, National Association of Development Organizations, National Rural Health Association, Rural Community College Alliance, and National Conference of State Legislatures. The goal of the meeting was to continue work to build a common platform for rural development initiatives. Presentations were made by Robert Stumberg, Georgetown Law on the WTO activities and by Tom Dorr, USDA Deputy Secretary for Rural Development.

The Rural Human Services National Advisory Committee also met at the Airlie Retreat Center. This was the first meeting of the ten member committee, comprised of national leaders in human services, workforce development, and integrative faith-based services, and will work in advancing the mission of the newly reconfigured RUPRI Rural Human Services and Poverty Policy Center in a manner similar to the work of the RUPRI Rural Health Panel

### **Presentations**

Marcie McLaughlin, National Rural Funders Collaborative Policy Forum, February 2005

Marcie McLaughlin, Effective Partnerships for Program Success, CSREES/USDA, May 2005

Marcie McLaughlin, Innovations in Civic Participation, Americorp Discussion, May 2005

Marcie McLaughlin, Virginia Rural Leadership Conference, October 2005

Marcie McLaughlin, Prairie Rural Action Conference, November 2005

Marcie McLaughlin, RUPRI/IICA meeting in Costa Rica, October 2005

### **Projects and Initiatives**

RUPRI signed an MOU with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, an OAS based ministerial consortium governed by the Secretaries of Agriculture in the Americas. Members of RUPRI and IICA met in Costa Rica in October to begin to frame a five-year program of work for a new collaboration, *the Alliance for the Rural Americas*.

### **Goals and Strategic Directions for 2006**

Continue to provide policy decision support for Congressional Members and staff, as well as the White House and federal departments and agencies.

Continue to provide interface between RUPRI activities and the Administration and Congress.

Staff support to the National Rural Network, National Institute for Rural Community Colleges, the IICA and EU Networking specifically in regards to the World Trade Negotiations, the RUPRI Rural Health Panel and related Health and Human Services activities.

# RUPRI Rural Telecommunications Panel

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The Telecommunications Panel's goal is to bring critical issues of current telecommunications policy to the attention of rural people and policymakers at state and federal levels.

## Panel Members

**Gene Crick**, Executive Director, Telecommunity Resource Center

**Linda Garcia**, Director - CCT Program, Georgetown University

**Victor Glass**, Director of Demand Forecasting and Rate Development, National Exchange Carriers Association, Inc.

**C. Ann Hollifield**, Association Professor, Department of Telecommunications, University of Georgia

**Steve McDowell**, Associate Professor, Department of Communication, Florida State University

**Michael Oden**, Professor, Architecture School, University of Texas

**Jorge Reina Schement**, Professor and Co-Director, college of Communications, Penn State University

**Harmeet Sawhney**, Associate Professor, Department of Telecommunications, Indiana University

**Sharon Strover (Chair)**, Professor, Department of Radio-Television-Film, The University of Texas at Austin

## Publications

Strover, S. and Mun, S. (2006) Democracy's stake in innovation. In special issue of *Government Information Quarterly* on Wireless Communications.

Strover, S. and McDowell, S. (Co-Editors) (2006) Special Issue of *Government Information Quarterly* on Wireless Communications

## Presentations

Schement, Jorge. Presentation at the National Governor's Association Conference, Des Moines, July 2005.

Strover, S. Telecommunications in rural communities. Presented at the International Rural Network Conference, Abington, VA, June 2005.

Rural Communities and Network Possibilities. Presented at the Internet Uses in the Americas conference, Mexico City, June 2005

Critically Evaluating Market Diffusion Policy and the Digital Divide in Texas 2000-2004. With Joe Straubhaar, Nobuya Inagaki, Martha Fuentes. Presented at the International Communications Association conference, New York, June 2005

Networking small communities: An evaluation. Presented at the Roskilde University, Roskilde, Denmark. March 2005.

## 2005 Projects

### **Study of e-rate funding patterns in the U.S.**

This study has examined the Universal Services Corporation data on e-rate awards through the 50 American states plus territories across several years in order to ascertain whether there are patterns in awards and specifically whether states with extensive rural regions are receiving the e-rate funding they need. We seek to use other national statistics regarding telecommunications costs in schools and libraries in order to estimate what percentage of the overall school-based telecommunications costs E-Rate contributes.

## Goals and Strategic Directions for 2006

Complete e-rate study.

Develop several position papers on universal service, including e-rate, that can figure in discussion of a new telecommunications act.

Assess implications of state-level legislation regarding municipal wireless, broadband deployment, and video franchising as they may affect rural regions.

# RUPRI Rural Community College Research & Policy Initiative

## National Institute for Rural Community Colleges

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### Mission

To strengthen the capacity of rural community colleges to better serve and sustain the places in which their students, staff and faculty live, learn, work and grow.

### Founding Institutions

RUPRI

Mid-South Partnership for Rural Community Colleges - a collaboration representing The Stennis Institute of Government / Mississippi State University and Alcorn State University

Rural Community College Alliance

### The Need for the National Institute for Rural Community Colleges

Parts of rural America are prospering and growing, but far too many regions, communities, families and children are struggling. Much of rural America remains in decline, with people, jobs and hope leaving. In these areas education, health care, locally-based businesses, and public facilities are eroding.

While distance, isolation, persistent poverty and population decline are impacted by a variety of public policies across all sectors, public two-year colleges are a major presence in rural America. With 553 publicly controlled districts operating 957 rural serving campuses, these colleges bring a heritage of grounded, long-term connection to the people and institutions of rural America. While these institutions are engaged every day in building rural human and social capital, their potential as catalysts for advancing new economic and community development approaches which will lead to sustainable regional economies across rural America must be more effectively optimized.

Drawing strength from affiliated partners, NIRCC provides focus for the research, educational programs, leadership development, technical assistance and public policy research and analysis needed to achieve this outcome.

The NIRCC held its initial convening in October of 2005. During the three day meeting, 40 national leaders, representing rural community college presidents and policy researchers worked in two developmental teams to craft the initial institutional framework for NIRCC and formulate an integrative program of work for its first year of operation.

### Publications

Reid, Mary Beth and Stephen G. Katsinas (2005). "The Nursing Shortage and Rural Community Colleges in Economically Distressed Regions of the U.S." Preliminary results presented to RUPRI

### Presentations

Charles W. Fluharty "Invigorating Rural Economies" Mississippi Rural Community Colleges Summit, Meridian, Mississippi, January 2005.

Charles W. Fluharty. "Toward a Regional Rural Innovation Policy: The Critical Role of Rural Community Colleges" American Association of Community Colleges Rural Policy Roundtable, Washington, D.C., July 2005

David Hardy and Steve Katsinas made an invited presentation "Toward New Meanings: Mapping America's Community Colleges" at the National Science Foundation, April 6, 2005, Arlington, VA.

Steve Katsinas, Jim Palmer, and Terry Tollefson presented to the National Council of State Directors of Community Colleges on, April 9, 2005. Their presentation included (a) plans to update the 2005 Survey of State Directors of Community Colleges on Access and Finance Issues, (b) the planned 4th edition of the book 50 State Systems of Community Colleges, which Terry has served as the lead editor on for three consecutive editions, and (c) the

collaborative work with RUPRI's Community Information Resource center to develop an integrative, interactive website of US community colleges.

Steve Katsinas and David Hardy presented an update of the classifications work to the Council for the Study of Community Colleges Annual Meeting.

There were two presentations at the American Association of Community Colleges convention involving rural community colleges. The first included RCCA Executive Director Bill Scaggs, True North President Joe Sertich, and the second involved MDC's Sarah Rubin and Chuck Fluharty and rural community colleges in Nebraska and Mississippi.

Pat Moeck successfully defended her doctoral dissertation at the University of North Texas on housing at community colleges. She found that the US Department of Education undercounted the number of community colleges with on campus housing by several hundred nationally. Most rural community colleges have on campus housing for their full-time students.

### **Goals and Strategic Directions**

- NIRCC will facilitate development and coordination of regional '*lighthouse*' educational, research and technical assistance programs, utilizing frameworks similar to those developed by the unique MSP collaboration. Created with community college practitioner guidance, this innovative program stresses interdisciplinary, regionally-focused community and economic development studies and research.
- NIRCC also will guide the development and coordination of unique Leadership Programs for rural community college practitioners, including a Presidential Fellows program, summer institutes, and courses and conferences which build professional faculty development, within a rural context.
- Another major NIRCC thrust will be public policy research and analysis, utilizing RUPRI's unique public policy decision-support model and its unparalleled reputation for integrity and policy relevance. Programs will include conferences, convenings and state-level consultancy. All programs will emphasize the RUPRI/MSP attention to cross-sector, multi-disciplinary, place-focused collaborative analysis.

# RUPRI Core Infrastructure

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<u>RUPRI Core Staff</u>	<u>2005 Accomplishments</u>
Charles Fluharty, Director	The RUPRI Director and Associate Director continue to provide ongoing policy decision support for Congressional Members and staff, as well as the White House and federal departments and agencies.
Brian Dabson, Associate Director	RUPRI'S weekly opinion column is published in over 100 newspapers and periodicals, with an estimated total circulation of 1 million readers per issue.
Tom Rowley, 2005 RUPRI Fellow	RUPRI Director worked with the leadership within the state of Indiana to craft a rural strategy for the state. Governor Daniels and Lieutenant Governor Skillman, through their cabinet policy directors, are working with eight teams, each composed of 20 sector leaders, to develop a strategic plan.
Kathleen Miller, Program Director	University of Missouri Extension and RUPRI are collaborating on a Missouri Rural Entrepreneurship Initiative, which is focused on enhancing the entrepreneurship climate in rural Missouri communities.
Sally Coats, Fiscal Officer	RUPRI is working with the Big 12 Universities regarding the development of a Center for Economic Development, Innovation and Commercialization, as well as working with the Presidents and Chancellors of the Universities in Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas regarding an evolving new institutional entity to advance regional competitiveness in the four-state area.
Lori Christopher, Administrative Assistant	
Susan Kelly, Fiscal Assistant	

## Presentations, Charles W. Fluharty, Director

"Invigorating Rural Economics." Mississippi Rural Community Colleges Summit, Meridian, MS, January 2005.

"Toward a Place-Based Rural Policy: Implications for a Texas Rural Policy." Texas Rural Caucus, Austin, TX, February 2005.

"A Rural Framework for Rural-Urban Discussion: A 'Systems' Approach to Regional Innovation." National Association of Regional Councils Policy Conference, Washington, D.C., February 2005.

Testimony before the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management, U.S. House of Representatives, March 2005

"State of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Rural America", W.K. Kellogg Dialogue, Washington, D.C., March 2005

"Rural Realities: What Does Rural America Really Look Like and What can be Done about Rural Poverty?" The National Association of Social Workers' West Virginia Chapter Spring Continuing Education Conference, Charleston, WV, April 2005

"Approaches to Rural Policy: Affirming the Role of Social Work in Creating a Framework for Rural Change." The National Association of Social Workers' West Virginia Chapter Spring Continuing Education Conference, Charleston, WV, April 2005

"Toward a Regional Rural Innovation Policy...Crafting a Consensus for Change." Agricultural Policy Summit, New Directions in Federal Farm Policy: Issues for the 2007 Farm Bill, Ames, IA, July 2005.

Speech to the Rural Social Work Institute's National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV, July 2005.

"Toward a Regional Rural Innovation Policy...The Critical Role of Rural Community Colleges." American Association of Community Colleges Rural Policy Roundtable, Washington, D.C., July 2005.

"Building a Hoosier Regional Rural Innovation Policy: Crafting a Framework for Success!" Indiana Office of Rural Affairs Rural Strategic Planning Retreat, Indianapolis, IN, July 2005

"The Farm Bill, Rural Policy and the Future of Rural America: Building a 'Regional Rural Innovation' Framework!" National Conference of State Legislatures Rural Policy Academy, Seattle, WA, August 2005.

Speech to the Appalachian Regional Commission Conference, New Concord, OH, October 2005.

"Assessing the State of Rural Governance in the United States." Big Lessons from Small Places: A Forum on Governance in Rural North America and the North Atlantic Rim, Twillingate, Newfoundland, October 2005.

"The Current U.S. Rural Policy Framework: Toward a 'Regional Rural Innovation System.'" Meeting with Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, San Jose, Costa Rica, October 2005.

#### **Presentations, Brian Dabson, Associate Director**

"The Meaning of Entrepreneurship." Keynote address to the Texas Entrepreneurship Summit, Austin, TX, March 2005.

Speech to the Kansas Annual Community Economic Development Conference, Junction City, KS, April 2005.

Speech to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Conference, Memphis, TN, April 2005.

Speech to the Mississippi Annual Rural Development Conference, Vicksburg, MS, April 2005.

Speech to the California Statewide Rural Economic Vitality Conference, Sacramento, CA, April 2005.

Conducted a workshop and provided the keynote speech for the Association for Enterprise Opportunity conference, Portland, OR, May, 2005.

Opening session presentation to the Southern Rural Development Center's workshop on entrepreneurship and e-commerce, Oklahoma City, OK, May 2005.

"Strengthening Families and Rural Governance." Seattle, WA

"The Future of Rural America." Washington DC and Vermont

Participated in a retreat in California organized by the Aspen Institute's Roundtable on Community Change on the topic of "beyond urban-rural."

Keynote presentation to the University of Missouri Community Development Extension conference on the future of Rural America, October 2005.

"The Future of the Rural Economy." Keynote presentation to the National Rural Health Association Critical Access Hospital conference, Kansas City, MO, October 2005.

"The Big Picture Context for Rural Entrepreneurship." Keynote presentation to the Iowa Community Entrepreneurship Academy, Manning, IA, October 2005.

#### **Presentations, Tom Rowley, 2005 RUPRI Fellow**

"The Rural Policy Landscape: Trends, Changes and Suggestions." Presentation to the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission, Edna, TX, August 2005.

#### **Publications**

State Demographic and Economic Profile Series. A series of reports for each state that presents demographic characteristics and trends, income, poverty, employment, and other indicators.