



rural policy research institute

2006 Annual Report on Accomplishments

About the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI)

The Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) provides unbiased analysis and information on the challenges, needs, and opportunities facing rural America. RUPRI's aim is to spur public dialogue and help policymakers understand the rural impacts of public policies and programs.

RUPRI was founded in 1990 to address a concern of members of the Senate Agricultural Committee -- including Senator Kit Bond (Missouri), Senator Dale Bumpers (Arkansas), Senator Tom Harkin (Iowa), and Senator Bob Kerrey (Nebraska) -- that no objective non-governmental source of external data, information, and analysis, regarding the rural and community impacts of public policy decisions was available.

Today, RUPRI is housed within the Harry S. Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri-Columbia and is a joint program of Iowa State University, the University of Missouri, and the University of Nebraska. RUPRI's reach is national and international and is one of the world's preeminent sources of expertise and perspective on policies impacting rural places and people.

Vision

- Rural people and places have the resources and capacities to create strong, viable, meaningful, and sustainable futures that can both withstand and turn to advantage the forces of globalization and economic, demographic, and social change.
- Rural and urban people find common cause and understanding about the future role and governance of rural places and the contribution that rural life and culture makes to national identity.

Mission

RUPRI provides unbiased analysis and information on the challenges, needs, and opportunities facing rural America. RUPRI's aim is to spur public dialogue and help policymakers understand the rural impacts of public policies and programs.

Commitment

RUPRI commits to:

- Provide timely, empirically-based, and non-partisan advice and assistance to policymakers on the rural impacts of public policies and programs and on options for improving the lives and prospects for rural people and places.
- Foster understanding and the search for effective solutions to the challenges of rural America by providing safe venues for people with a stake in the future of rural America to discuss openly concerns, issues, and opportunities.
- Encourage collaboration and common purpose among scholars to pursue research that supports effective policy and practice for the benefit of rural people and places.
- Promote innovative, collaborative, and systems-based approaches to rural issues that engage decision-makers and rural people at local, regional, state, national, and international levels.

RUPRI Focus Areas

Research

RUPRI is a university-based organization with extensive connections to researchers across the United States and internationally. In the area of health care, the RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis conducts research that informs policymakers on topics such as the impacts of Medicare modernization on rural America, the changing landscape of rural health care delivery, and the management of diabetes and other chronic diseases in rural areas. The RUPRI Rural Poverty Research Center has commissioned and/or disseminated a wide array of papers on the causes and characteristics of rural poverty and the impacts of public policies that were intended to address them. Dimensions of race, geography, gender, education, employment, and immigration have been explored by scholars from multiple universities. The paucity of research on entrepreneurship and its potential for improving the economies of rural communities and regions has prompted the RUPRI Center for Rural Entrepreneurship to convene researchers to devise a national research agenda as well as embarking on a series of case studies and program evaluations.

Policy Analysis and Engagement

Central to RUPRI's mission is engaging with policymakers at the state and national levels on the issues that affect the lives and prospects of rural people and places and providing them with rigorous analysis of policy options. RUPRI's National Policy program works in a non-partisan way alongside Congress and the Administration, providing briefings, materials, talking points, and contacts, as well as tracks legislation and regulation relevant to rural constituencies. When appropriate, RUPRI's expert panels on health, human services, and telecommunications are convened to examine legislative and regulatory changes. RUPRI's Washington DC staff also facilitates dialogue on rural issues in the capital including the National Rural Network and regularly collaborates with key non-governmental organizations such as National Association of Counties, National Association of Development Organizations, National Association of Regional Councils, National Conference of State Legislatures, National Governors Association, and National League of Cities.

RUPRI's State Policy program sets out to educate and inspire state legislators to develop intentional and informed state rural policies through academies, conferences, and workshops. The program also works with the growing network of state rural policy centers. A goal of the new RUPRI Center for Regional Competitiveness will be analyze the impacts of public policy on regional competitiveness.

Dissemination and Outreach

A vital part of RUPRI's work is keeping a broad range of agencies, institutions, organizations, and individuals apprised of current thinking and developments in policy that impacts rural people and places. Presentations to conferences and workshops, and publications in the form of books, chapters, and working papers originate from all parts of the RUPRI organization. RUPRI also regularly convenes its own conferences at the Lied Center, NE, Airlie, VA, and Pocantico, NY. Growing in importance is RUPRI's international portfolio of activities designed to stimulate the flow of ideas, opportunities, and experiences on rural and regional development across national borders. Institutional links are being established with organizations such as the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on

Agriculture (IICA), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and International Rural Network.

Decision Support Tools

The acid test of new policies and programs is their application within rural places. RUPRI provides rural communities and regions with a number of tools and approaches that are designed to build local capacity and improve decision-making. The translation of complex data and information into maps and specialized reports for a variety of audiences is the particular expertise of the Community Informatics Resource Center. Indicators and tools for understanding, diagnosing, and seizing competitive advantage are being developed by the RUPRI Center for Regional Competitiveness, the *Energizing Entrepreneurs* Institutes offered by the RUPRI Center for Rural Entrepreneurship enable practitioners, local officials, and residents the training and tools to take entrepreneurial action in their rural communities; and the work of the Community Policy Analysis Center, a partner organization located in Columbia, MO, that provides economic development decision tools for local communities. RUPRI's Rural Governance program has tested a number of governance concepts with clusters of small communities in three states.

RUPRI Centers, Panels and Initiatives

The work of RUPRI is conducted through a small core team based in Missouri, Washington DC, and Texas, and through four centers and a number of joint initiatives and panels located across the United States.

The RUPRI Centers

There are four national centers that support the RUPRI mission in specific sectors.

RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis, located at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, NE, conducts original and contract research to better inform public policy on rural health care.

RUPRI Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, with staff located in Lincoln, NE, Chapel Hill, NC, and Columbia, MO, collects, initiates, and disseminates best research and practice for use by policymakers, practitioners, and communities in support of entrepreneurship as an effective rural economic development strategy.

RUPRI Rural Poverty Research Center, located jointly at Oregon State University and the University of Missouri, conducts, initiates, and disseminates research and policy analysis, and provides mentorship for young scholars, on the causes and consequences of rural poverty and on effective policy responses.

RUPRI Center for Regional Competitiveness, located in Kansas City, MO, develops economic indicators for understanding regional competitiveness, provides tools and strategies for diagnosing and seizing competitive advantage, and analyzing impacts of public policy on regional competitiveness.

RUPRI Collaborative Ventures

RUPRI partners with other organizations in several collaborative ventures:

Rural Assistance Center, based in Grand Forks, ND, is a joint initiative of the Office of Rural Health Policy at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, the Center for Rural Health at the University of North Dakota, and RUPRI, is an information portal for rural communities and other rural stakeholders to access the full range of programs, funding, and research to support the provision of quality health and human services to rural people.

RUPRI collaborates with several partners on the importance of rural community colleges to rural economic and community development, including the Rural Community College Alliance and the Association of Canadian Community Colleges.

RUPRI Panels and Networks

From time to time, RUPRI convenes panels of experts to inform public policymaking in specific sectors, including health, human services, and telecommunications. RUPRI also facilitates networks of scholars and practitioners.

Community Policy Analysis Network (CPAN) is a national network of researchers who collaborate on building predictive models and tools to support better informed state and community policymaking.

National Rural Network brings together national non-governmental organizations with a vital interest in the impacts of public policy on their rural constituents.

RUPRI Core Programs

The work of these centers, ventures, panels, and networks is supported and complemented by five cross-cutting core programs.

National Policy is based in Washington DC and provides the interface between the work across the RUPRI organization and Congress and the Administration.

State Policy centered in Austin, TX encourages and enables state policymakers to develop intentional and informed state rural policies.

International Dialogue encourages international exchanges of ideas, opportunities, and experiences in rural development among policymakers, academics, and practitioners.

Community Information Resource Center, located in Columbia, MO, uses data mapping and management to enable the “place-based” implications of issues impacting rural America to be more effectively visualized, analyzed, queried and mapped.

Rural Governance is concerned with how decisions are made that impact the lives and prospects of rural people and communities.

RUPRI Rural Health Portfolio:

RUPRI Rural Health Panel

RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis

RUPRI Great Plains Center for Health Statistics

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 Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Public Health, 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, and Deputy Director of the Upper Midwest Center for Rural Health Research.

2006 Accomplishments

- The Health Panel completed a special report on the importance of Medicaid to rural areas, thereby participating in the national dialogue concerning changes in that program.
- The Health Panel began a three-year participation with the Rural Assistance Center in a project designed to improve dissemination of rural health services research (from the ORHP-funded research centers) to diverse audiences. The Panel will have a special focus on federal policy makers.
- The Health Panel launched a program of work to analyze proposals to reform the health care delivery system, reconsidering the criteria it used in 1993 for the same purpose.
- The RUPRI Center has become the “go to” resource for analysis of the impact of the Medicare Advantage program and enrollment in the new Medicare Part D in rural areas.
- The RUPRI Center secured a contract with the state of Wyoming (successfully competed against 5 other bids) to analyze the current health care delivery system in rural areas and recommend improvements.
- The RUPRI Center worked with the RUPRI Government Affairs staff to build collaborations with other research centers for the purpose of promoting the use of research in federal policy, including organizing special briefings with congressional staff.
- The RUPRI Center completed development of special materials to describe and promote the Sentinel Communities project and began a relationship with a potential first site in western Colorado.

RUPRI Policy Briefs, Reports, White Papers, Policy Studies

From the Health Panel

- The Institute of Medicine Rural Health Report: Next Steps in Legislation and Programs
- Medicaid and Its Importance to Rural Health (Issue Brief)

From the RUPRI Center

- The Experience of Sole Community Rural Independent Pharmacies with Medicare Part D: Reports from the Field
- Medicare Physician Payment: Impacts of Changes on Rural Physicians
- The Impact of Welfare Reform on Health Insurance Coverage in Rural Areas
- Why Are Health Care Expenditures Increasing and Is There a Rural Differential?
- Medicare Part D: Early Findings on Enrollment and Choices for Rural Beneficiaries
- Chronic Disease Management Systems (Registries) in Rural Health Care
- Elements of Successful Rural Diabetes Management Programs

External Publications

- Care across the continuum: Access to health care services in rural America. *Journal of Rural Health* 22(1), 43-49.
- Medicare's economic, noneconomic impact. *Amednews: the newspaper for America's physicians*. September 4, 2006.

Publications Under Review

Li-Wu, Keith, Jane, Liyan: Revise and resubmit an article for *Medical Care Research and Review*. Explaining physician decisions to not accept new Medicare Patients.

Federal / State Policy Arena Testimony, Briefings or Workshops

- 01/06 Retreat for congressional staff (Mueller, Wakefield)
- 02/06 Distributed the Health Panel's policy paper on the IOM's rural health report to House staff attending a briefing (Mueller)
- 02/06 Participated in a special workshop on Financial and Organizational Sustainability supported by the Kellogg Foundation (Mueller)
- 02/06 Met with Deb Williams from the House Ways and Means Committee, Valerie Henry from Rep. Walden's office and the Rural Health Care Coalition, and Shelley Blake, Rep. Jeff Fortenberry's health LA (Mueller, Richgels)
- 02/06 Appointed to serve on the Health Care Reform Commission organized by U.S. Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-NE) (Mueller)

Presentations, Speeches by Keith Mueller:

- 01/06 National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services: Presented findings from the recent policy brief, *Contracting With Medicare Advantage Plans: A Brief for Critical Access Hospital Administrators*
- 01/06 General Session and Concurrent Session presentations: Rural Health Conference of the New Hampshire/Vermont Health Care Financial Management Association. "Service Delivery to Rural Elderly."
- 03/06 Keynote speaker, Research Policy Symposium: Health Disparities, Implications for Service Delivery and Policy in Rural Areas. *Rural Health Services Research in the Prime of Life*. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Carle Foundation Hospital.
- 04/06 Special talk for Regional CEO Summit, Banner Health Systems. "A New World Dawning? Medicare Policy for the Future." Ogallala, Nebraska
- 04/06 Workshop speaker, Nebraska Press Association Annual Convention. "Health and the Press." Lincoln, NE

- 08/06 "A Framework for Rural EMS: Quality Through Collaboration," at the Rural and Frontier EMS and Trauma Summit at the Summit in Big Sky, Montana
- 08/06 "Medicare Advantage and Rural Access," at the CEO and Board Member Conference of the North Colorado Medical Center, Greeley, Colorado
- 09/06 Keynote speaker, Nebraska Rural Health Association Annual Meeting: "Transforming Rural Health Care." Kearney, Nebraska
- 09/06 Talk for the Brownville Lyceum Political Café: "Health Care Crisis & Reform." Brownville, Nebraska

Presentations, Speeches by Others:

- 04/06 Mike Shambaugh-Miller, "Geography and the U.S. Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Rural Health Research Centers," at the 10th Biennial Midwest ARC GIS Users Conference Symposium, at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City, Missouri.
- 05/06 Katherine Jones, "The Prevalence of Safe Medication Practices in Small Rural Hospitals," at the 29th Annual Conference of the National Rural Health Association in Reno, Nevada
- 05/06 Li-Wu Chen, "Pay for Performance or Penalize for Financial Sustainability? – An Implication of the Relationship Between Hospital Quality and Financial Performance," at the 29th Annual Conference of the National Rural Health Association in Reno, Nevada
- 05/06 Tim McBride, "The Uninsured," to the American Medical Students Association, Washington University-St. Louis chapter, St. Louis, Missouri
- 05/06 Clint MacKinney, "Finding My Way to Safety and Quality," at a meeting sponsored by CIMRO of Nebraska in Lincoln, Nebraska
- 12/06 Gary Cochran, "Medication Safety in Small and Rural Hospitals: A National Survey Structure and Process," at the American Society of Health System Pharmacists Midyear Clinical Meeting, Anaheim, California
- 06/06 **The following took place at the annual research meeting of AcademyHealth:**
 - Michael Shambaugh-Miller, "The Definition of Rural in the Context of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 Access Standards for Prescription Drug Plans" (poster)
 - Li-Wu Chen, "Pay for Performance or Penalize for Financial Sustainability? An Implication of the Relationship Between Hospital Quality and Financial Performance" (poster)
- 06/06 Katherine Jones, "The Culture of Safety in 24 Midwestern Critical Access Hospitals," at the AHRQ Patient Safety & Health IT Conference, Washington, DC
- 11/06 Clint MacKinney, "Engaging Leadership and Physicians to Make a Difference," at the Minnesota Alliance for Patient Safety
- 11/06 Tim McBride, "Medicare Part D: Enrollment and Choices for Rural Beneficiaries," at the Gerontological Society of America meeting, Dallas, TX

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) Quality Steering Committee, National Rural Health Association

- 01/06 Health Panel Meeting, St. Louis. Agenda: IOM document, Medicaid brief, strategic planning and activities, work plan for rural definitions, work plan for next several months, including Panel meetings
- 10/06 Health Panel Meeting, Chicago. Agenda: Work on the rural definition document, strategic direction for panel, Medicaid, Panel criteria for assessing reform legislation, Panel work plan, fit with other RUPRI activities and Panel role in evolving world of research centers, dissemination cooperative agreement, Sentinel Communities, ND/RAC dissemination, work with the centers
- 12/06 Facilitated a meeting for the National Rural Health Association to discuss programs to provide technical assistance to rural providers for the purpose of improving patient safety and quality of care

Other Projects Completed

- 06/06: Rural Hospital Issues Group facilitation
- 12/06: Rural Hospital Issues Group facilitation
Participated in USDA rural tour in Iowa

Goals for 2007

For the Health Panel.

- Disseminate the document describing rural definitions and provide technical assistance through appropriate venues as follow up.
- Improve the impact of policy documents as a result of the dissemination to diverse audiences project.
- Lay the foundation for a rural-relevant discussion of health care reform.

For the RUPRI Center

- Complete a successful non-competitive application to the Office of Rural Health Policy.
- Complete all projects associated with the first three years of the ORHP award.
- Start the Sentinel Communities project in at least four sites.
- Secure at least one additional special studies contract similar to the current Wyoming contract

RUPRI Center for Rural Entrepreneurship

Deb Markley, Managing
Director and Director of
Research

Don Macke, Director of
Practitioner Programs and
Project Director for
HomeTown
Competitiveness Program

Karen Dabson, Director of
Program Development &
Marketing

Brian Dabson, Executive Vice
President of RUPRI

Taina Radenslaben, Operations
and Web Manager

Craig Schroeder, Senior
Associate

Erik Pages, Senior Fellow

Jed Wagner, Associate

2006 Accomplishments

- Successfully developed a regionally distributed e² Energizing Entrepreneurship Institute product with four institutes booked to date.
- Completed major grant from Northwest Area foundation – four case studies and five mini-case studies of innovative entrepreneurship development practices will be included in a forthcoming publication, *Innovative Approaches to Entrepreneurial Development: Cases from the Northwest Region*.
- Prepared *Energizing an Entrepreneurial Economy: A Guide for County Leaders*, published by NACo and widely distributed to rural county leaders.
- Successfully organized a conference, *Exploring Rural Entrepreneurship: Imperatives and Opportunities for Research*, in partnership with USDA's ERS.
- Completed the development and transition to a new website, www.energizingentrepreneurs.org.
- Formed a partnership with the Regional Rural Development Centers to support cross-communication and more effective outreach to rural practitioners.
- Contributed four chapters to forthcoming book, *Creating Entrepreneurial Local Development Strategies*, edited by Norman Walzer.

Publications

RUPRI Policy Briefs, Reports, White Papers, Policy Studies or Books

Deborah Markley and Karen Dabson, *Innovative Entrepreneurship Development in the Northwest Area Foundation Region*, Final Report on the Entrepreneurship Component of Northwest Area Foundation grant, December 2006.

Deborah Markley, John Gruidl, James Calvin and Ted Bradshaw, *An Evaluation of the Kentucky Entrepreneurial Coaches Institute: Insights and Recommendations*, Year 1 Evaluation Report to the University of Kentucky, March 2006.

Karen Dabson and Tracy Greever Rice, *Missouri Community Conversations Final Report*, March 2006.

External Publications

Deborah Markley, "A Framework for Developing Rural Entrepreneurship," *Economic Development America*, Winter 2006.

Don Macke, "The HomeTown Competitiveness Initiative," *Economic Development America*, Winter 2006.

Deborah Markley, Karen Dabson and Don Macke, *Energizing an Entrepreneurial Economy: A Guide for County Leaders*, National Association of Counties, August 2006.

Publications Under Review

Deborah Markley, "Building Communities through Entrepreneurship Development: Financing Entrepreneurs and Entrepreneurial Support Systems," in *Creating Entrepreneurial Local Development Strategies*, edited by Norman Walzer, forthcoming.

Brian Dabson, "Entrepreneurship as a Development Strategy: A Changing Paradigm," in *Creating Entrepreneurial Local Development Strategies*, edited by Norman Walzer, forthcoming.

Don Macke, "Energizing Entrepreneurs -- Lessons Learned in the Field," in *Creating Entrepreneurial Local Development Strategies*, edited by Norman Walzer, forthcoming.

Craig Schroeder, "The Difference Makers: Engaging Entrepreneurial Young People," in *Creating Entrepreneurial Local Development Strategies*, edited by Norman Walzer, forthcoming.

Related Publications

Karen Dabson and Christine Daugherty-Weiss, "Shedding Light on Entrepreneurship in Rural America," *The Rural Sociologist*, Spring 2006.

Presentations

Deborah Markley, presentation on Entrepreneurship Development Systems to the Kellogg Foundation's meeting of the six Entrepreneurial Development Systems collaboratives, Portland, Oregon, February 2006.

Deborah Markley, Fostering Rural Entrepreneurship – All Hands on Deck!, National Association of Workforce Boards conference, Washington, DC, February 27, 2006.

Karen Dabson, Presentation on the results of the University of Missouri Extension's Community Conversations on Entrepreneurship, Statewide SBDC Board Business Development Conference, February 7-8, 2006.

Deborah Markley and Karen Dabson, Energizing Entrepreneurs and SMAs, State Microenterprise Association meeting, Washington, DC, March 1, 2006.

Deborah Markley, Embedding Entrepreneurship as a Basis for Economic Growth, University of North Carolina's Institute of Government training for small town officials, March 10, 2006.

Karen Dabson, two-part presentation on Energizing Entrepreneurs, Appalachian Regional Commission's DDAA Conference, April 13, 2006.

Don Macke, workshops on entrepreneurial development to four Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines regional conferences in 2006.

Karen Dabson presented on Energizing Entrepreneurs to the Springfield, Missouri area Chamber of Commerce and related partners, spring 2006.

Karen Dabson, presentation on Energizing Entrepreneurs, Southern Institute for Rural Development, April 2006.

Karen Dabson, two workshops at the Association for Enterprise Opportunity Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, May 2006.

Deborah Markley and Karen Dabson, workshop at the Community Development Society Annual Conference, St. Louis, Missouri, June 2006.

Deborah Markley taught the entrepreneurship component of the University of North Carolina's Institute of Government's Economic Development Course, August 9, 2006.

Deborah Markley, presentation to the NACo Rural Advisory Committee's Steering Committee, August 2006.

Karen Dabson, two workshops on "Creating an Entrepreneurial Culture in Your Community" for the Kentucky Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship and the Kentucky Entrepreneurial Coaches Institute, September 2006.

Don Macke, presentation to the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka Nebraska Shareholders meeting, September 2006.

Karen Dabson, day-long workshop on Missouri Entrepreneurial Communities, fall 2006.

Don Macke participated on a panel about entrepreneurship development at the North Carolina League of Municipalities annual conference, October 2006.

Deb Markley conducted a workshop for county officials at the North Dakota Association of Counties Annual Meeting, October 2006.

Don Macke presented to the WAEM (Western AL Eastern MS WIRED Project) Goal 2 Leadership Team, December 2006.

Facilitations and Trainings

Karen Dabson and Don Macke led the facilitation of the Brookfield Missouri visioning retreat toward culmination of their one-year-old HTC planning process, and envisioning action for the next three years, March, 2006.

Don Macke designed and led a strategic planning session for the Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center at North Iowa Area Community College, May 2006.

Don Macke provided strategic facilitation and planning to Dickinson State University's entrepreneurship initiative throughout 2006.

Deborah Markley, Karen Dabson and Dick Gardner facilitated two regional entrepreneurship practitioner gatherings in Oregon and Idaho as part of the NWAFF grant, April and May 2006.

Deborah Markley facilitated the leadership retreat for the North Carolina Kellogg Entrepreneurial Development Systems project, August 2006.

Karen Dabson facilitated strategic planning with the Southern Rural Development Center, fall 2006.

Don Macke and Deb Markley provided strategic facilitation for a gathering in October 2006 of participants in the 2005-2006 e² Energizing Entrepreneurship trainings held in North Carolina.

Deborah Markley and Karen Dabson conducted an e² Energizing Entrepreneurship Institute in North Carolina, December 2006.

Strategic Engagements

Don Macke is providing leadership to the Center's strategic engagement with Dickinson State University in western North Dakota as they work to build an entrepreneurship development system in the region, including the Center for Entrepreneurship and Rural Revitalization and a state Center for Excellence.

Don Macke, Karen Dabson and Brian Dabson are providing leadership to the Center's strategic engagement with WAEM. As part of this project, the Center is working closely with eight community colleges as their staff provides support to communities in the development of entrepreneurship strategies.

Don Macke is providing leadership to the Center's strategic engagement as one of the partners in HomeTown Competitiveness (HTC). HTC is moving from a state (Nebraska) model to a national model and, to date, over 1,000 individuals representing most states have participated in HTC's Global Academy. More information on HTC is available at www.htcnebraska.org.

2006 Center Projects and Activities

- Update and transition to a new website for the Center – www.energizingentrepreneurs.org – and development of a new newsletter template and system.
- Change over to a new management structure for the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship.
- Development and marketing of new e2 Energizing Entrepreneurship training products and services.
- Primary responsibility for successfully launching the University of Missouri CEED Communities Project.
- Four systems approach case studies of innovative entrepreneurship development activities (Arrowhead Entrepreneurship Development System in NE Minnesota; North Iowa Area Community College; University of Northern Iowa's MyEntreNet program; Dickinson State University's Entrepreneurship Center – North Dakota) and five mini-case studies of innovative entrepreneurship activities were completed in 2006 as part of a grant from the Northwest Area Foundation.
- In partnership with USDA's ERS, the Center sponsored a conference on entrepreneurship research, *Exploring Rural Entrepreneurship: Imperatives and Opportunities for Research*, held in Washington, D.C., October 2006. Support for the conference was provided by the Northwest Area Foundation and the Farm Foundation. Proceedings are posted on www.energizingentrepreneurs.org.
- Second and final year's evaluation of the Kentucky Entrepreneurial Coaches Institute was completed in December 2006 with final report due in February 2007.
- Energizing Entrepreneurship Institute in Michigan, working with Michigan State University and Mary Emery from the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development, planned in 2006 and will be offered in February 2007.
- Energizing Entrepreneurship Institute in southern Indiana, working with Purdue University's Center for Regional Development, planned in 2006 and will be offered in March 2007.
- The Center has been pre-certified to provide technical assistance to partners in the NC Entrepreneurship Development Systems project. The Center will offer two regional Energizing Entrepreneurship trainings – one completed in December 2006 and one scheduled for June 2007.
- The University of North Carolina's School of Government has contracted with the Center to develop and deliver two one-day workshops on entrepreneurship development for local elected officials. The first workshop will be offered on March 29, 2007.
- The Appalachian Regional Commission has contracted with the Center to conduct an evaluation of their Entrepreneurship Initiative. Project planning was completed in 2006 and data collection and fieldwork will occur throughout winter and spring 2007.
- The Center continues to work with the University of Missouri Extension, providing technical assistance to selected communities that are working on becoming entrepreneurial.
- The Center began work on the Western AL Eastern MS (WAEM) WIRED project in 2006 and this work will continue in 2007.

Goals and Strategic Directions for 2007

To expand the Center's reach and impact in rural communities by building our capacity to provide training, strategic development, and seed capital to rural communities and regions committed to entrepreneurship development as a core rural economic development strategy.

The Center is doing well at bringing e² training to communities, regions and states with the resources to support our efforts. However, our capacity to provide such training and to continually develop our training products and services must be expanded to reach more of rural America. A strategic direction for 2007 is to tap into resources to support product innovation, e.g., developing next-level training for practitioners, creating a youth e² training, to subsidize e² training in rural regions that have resource limitations, and to build the Center's capacity to handle the demand for training and technical assistance throughout the nation. In addition, the Center's ability to catalyze community change would be enhanced through the creation of a Rural Investment Fund for communities that participate in e² training and need seed capital to implement their strategies.

The Center views its strategic development work as being critical to increasing impact in specific rural landscapes. This longer-term engagement allows the Center to push deeper with EDS implementation, increasing what we know about building such systems and providing deeper content for our other outreach and training. This work also increases the Center's visibility and contribution to ongoing national discussions about rural entrepreneurship development, such as that associated with the Kellogg EDS project and the Farm Bill. A strategic direction for 2007 is to expand this work and to systematically develop the lessons learned from such engagement.

To expand the field of knowledge in entrepreneurial research by growing the Center's capacity and developing an effective research network.

The Center has the capacity and is currently engaged in evaluation of entrepreneurship development initiatives across the country. However, there is an urgent need for more and better evaluation; practitioners are moving forward with entrepreneurship development with incomplete information about the impacts of alternative approaches. The Center is in a unique position to facilitate a network of researchers to address this research gap but filling that role requires two things – resources to support the Center's facilitation of a research network (convenings, conferences, online sharing of research) and resources to support the research itself. A strategic direction for 2007 is to identify resources to build the network and to expand our research portfolio.

To expand rural practitioners networking opportunities through the Center's outreach activities that include development of a practitioners' network.

The Center has been effective in facilitating networking among rural entrepreneurship development practitioners but as the level of innovation within the practitioner community increases, this networking function becomes more important. The Center has a role to play both in bringing together practitioners so they can share their practice and support one another, and in more systematically gathering and sharing the lessons learned from this practice throughout rural America. A strategic direction for 2007 will be to increase the Center's capacity to employ our web technology in support of a dedicated practitioners' network. The addition of a networking support person to the Center's team is needed for the Center to fully realize its role as a facilitator of a national entrepreneurship development practitioners' network.

To facilitate a discussion about what an effective entrepreneurship policy for rural America "should" look like and to move the policy debate away from a focus on programs and toward a more systematic approach to policy development.

In partnership with other RUPRI centers and staff, the Center is in a unique position to bring together the increasingly large number of participants in the field of entrepreneurship development, many of whom are thinking about appropriate policy to support entrepreneurship in rural places. Like much rural policy, however, these discussions are occurring without collaboration and debate. A strategic direction for 2007 is to convene these participants for an initial discussion about an effective entrepreneurship policy for rural America, with the RUPRI taking a facilitative leadership role.

RUPRI Rural Poverty Research Center (RPRC)

RPRC Co-Directors

Brian Dabson, Executive Vice
President, RUPRI

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

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

2006 Accomplishments

- RPRC commissioned four research papers in 2006:
 - Access to Social Services in the West
 - Child Care Subsidy Use in Rural and Urban Oregon
 - Poverty, Community and Change
 - Assessing Community Capacity in Rural America
- Three dissertation fellows completed fellowships with the RPRC
- 8 working papers published
- RPRC interviews with reports shaped and informed rural poverty stories in *The New York Time*, *the Economics*, *Christian Science Monitor* and other newspapers.

Publications

Green, Gary P. February 2006. "Gender, Race, and Employer-Provided Job Training in Low Wage Jobs." RPRC Working Paper No. 06-01.

Green, John J. and Albert B. Nylander. February 2006. "A Community-Based Framework for Understanding Problems and Exploring Alternatives: Connecting Underemployment, Poverty, and Access to Health Care in the Mississippi Delta." RPRC Working Paper No. 06-02.

MacTavish, Katerine A. February 2006. "We're Like the Wrong Side of the Tracks: Upscale Suburban Development, Social Inequality, and Rural Mobile Home Park Residence." RPRC Working Paper No. 06-03.

Ward, Sally and Heather Turner. February 2006. "Work and Welfare Strategies Among Single Mothers in Rural New England: The Role of Social Networks and Social Support." RPRC Working Paper No. 06-04.

Bradshaw, Ted K. February 2006. "Theories of Poverty and Anti-Poverty Programs in Community Development." RPRC Working Paper No. 06-05.

Slack, Tim. February 2006. "Work, Welfare, and the Informal Economy: An Examination of Family Livelihood Strategies in Rural Pennsylvania." RPRC Working Paper No. 06-06.

Pickering, Kathleen, David Mushinski, and John C. Allen. February 2006. "The Role of Social Capital in Poverty Alleviation in Native American Reservation Communities." RPRC Working Paper No. 06-07.

Marre, Alexander W. and Bruce A. Weber. September 2006. "Assessing Community Capacity in Rural America: Some Lessons from Two Rural Observatories." RPRC Working Paper No. 06-08.

Bernell, Stephanie, Bruce Weber, and Mark Edwards. 2006. "Restricted Opportunities, Personal Choices, Ineffective Policies: What Explains Food Insecurity in Oregon." *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*. 31(2): 193-211.

Edwards, Mark, Stephanie Bernell, and Bruce Weber, "Identifying Factors That Influence State-Specific Hunger Rates in the U.S.: A Simple Analytic Method for Understanding a Persistent Problem." *Social Indicators Research*, published online July 21. 2006:
<http://www.springerlink.com/content/yI3600234410014x/>

Miller, Kathleen and Jane Mosley (2006) "Spatial Variations in Factors Affecting Poverty: A Review of the Literature." *Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law and Policy*, 13(1) forthcoming.

External Publications by RPRC Dissertation Fellows

Esparza, Adrian and Angela Donelson. 2006. *Colonias on the US-Mexico Border in Arizona and New Mexico: Social and Economic Challenges and Community Development Solutions*. University of Arizona Press. Forthcoming, October.

Kelly, E. Brooke. forthcoming. "The Work of Coordinating Child Care for Rural Low-Income Mothers." in *Child Poverty in America Today*, vol. 3, edited by Barbara A. Arrighi and David J. Maume. Praeger.

Harris, Deborah A. and Domenico Parisi. 2006. "Adapting Life History Calendars for Qualitative Research on Welfare Transitions." Forthcoming in *Field Methods*.

Harris, Deborah A. and Domenico Parisi. 2005. "Gender Role Ideologies and Marriage Promotion: State Policy Choices and Recommendations for Improvement." *Review of Policy Research*, 22 (6):841-858.

Lam, Alven, Laura Norman and Angela Donelson. 2006. *Accessible Information Technology for Equitable Community Planning*. Book Chapter In *Regional Equity and Sustainable Development in the US-Mexican Border Region*. Edited by Jane Clough-Riquelme and Nora L. Bringas Rabago. La Jolla, CA: Center for US-Mexican Studies, University of California San Diego.

MacTavish, Katherine, Michelle Eley, and Sonya Salamon. "Housing Vulnerability among Rural Trailer Park Households", *Georgetown Journal of Poverty Law and Policy*, Volume XIII, Number 1, Winter 2006.

Pickering, Kathleen, Mark H. Harvey, Gene F. Summers, and David Mushinshki. 2006. *Welfare Reform in Persistent Rural Poverty: Dreams, Disenchantments, and Diversity*. University Park PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press

Sherman, Jennifer. 2006. "Coping with Rural Poverty: Economic Survival and Moral Capital in Rural America." Forthcoming in *Social Forces*.

Publications Under Review

Donelson, Angela and Adrian Esparza. "Undocumented Immigrants and Quality of Life in Arizona and New Mexico Colonias." *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, submitted for review.

Harris, Deborah A. and Domenico Parisi. 2006. "The Role of Place on the Marriage Realizations of Low-Income African American Women" Under review at *Journal of Family Issues*.

Harvey, Mark. "Welfare Reform and the Local State: A Case Study of Devolution in the Rio Grande Valley, Texas." *Politics and Society*. Submitted for review.

RPRC commissioned four research papers

Scott Allard (Brown University). "Access to Social Services in the West." 2006

Elizabeth Davis (University of Minnesota), Deana Grobe (Oregon State University), and Roberta Weber (Oregon State University).. "Participation and Employment, Dynamics of Child Care Subsidy Users in Rural and Urban Oregon." 2006.

Chris Colocousis and Cynthia M. Duncan (University of New Hampshire) "Poverty, Community, and Change." 2006.

Alexander Marre and Bruce Weber (Oregon State University). "Assessing Community Capacity in Rural America: Some Lessons from Two Rural Observatories." 2006.

2006 Policy Education, Outreach

During the past year, RPRC interviews with reporters have shaped and informed rural poverty stories in the *New York Times*, *The Economist*, *Christian Science Monitor* and other newspapers.

Mindy Crandall and Bruce Weber's Paper "Poverty in the West: Changing Fortunes from 1990 – 2000" from the Spring 2005 *Western Economics Forum* has been utilized by several federal legislators to call attention to some very large increases in poverty rates in many Western communities. The paper was excerpted as the lead feature in the Spring 2006 WRDC newsletter *Rural Connections*.

Presentations, Speeches

Miller, Kathleen. "Spatial Variations in Factors Affecting Poverty." Presented at the Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law and Policy 2006 Symposium: Forgotten America: Fighting Poverty in Rural Communities. April 26, 2006

Weber, Bruce, John Cromartie, Robert Gibbs, and Ashok Mishra. "Poverty Reduction through Education: Can it Work in Persistently Poor Rural Areas?" AAEA invited paper session, Rural Poverty Revisited: A New Look at Place and Policy. 2007 ASSA Meetings. Chicago, IL. January 5-7, 2007.

Mentoring: 2005-06 Rural Poverty Research Center Dissertation Fellows:

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, Anthropology, and Social Work;
"Welfare-Exiting Strategies in the Rural Context: Work or Marriage?"

Dissemination

RPRC Newsletter – *Perspectives*, Winter 2006, Vol. 3, Num. 4

- Inequality in Rural Mobile Home Parks: Life on the Wrong Side of the Tracks.
- Effects of Social Networks among Rural Single Mothers on Welfare and Employment.
- The Differing Effects of the Economy and Social Policies on Poverty in Nonmetro and Metro Areas.
- Theories of Poverty and Antipoverty Programs in Community Development.

Goals and Strategic Directions for 2007

- Focus research efforts on community and institutional capacity to address poverty and inclusion.
- Pursue a regional strategy for research, policy, and practice, recognizing the diversity of rural places and regions, and pay particular attention to the areas of persistent poverty.
- Expand efforts to foster the next generation of scholars, including direct outreach to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Hispanic Serving Institutions.
- Expand opportunities for exchange and dialogue among scholars, policymakers, and practitioners across the United States and internationally.

RUPRI Community Information Resource Center

CIRC Staff

Christopher Fulcher, Ph.D.
Director and Research Assistant
Professor, Harry S. Truman School
of Public Affairs.

Erin Barbaro, M.A.
Program Coordinator and
Geographic Information Systems
(GIS) Specialist.

Michael Barbaro, M.A.
GIS Specialist

Michelle Fenner, M.S.
GIS Specialist

Jeff Pickles, M.A.
GIS Specialist

Affiliated Staff

Christopher Barnett, M.A.
Co-Director of the Center for
Agricultural, Resource and
Environmental Systems (CARES),
and Research Associate.

Yan Barnett, M.A.
Senior Spatial Analyst, and
Research Associate.

Dave Connett, M.A.
GIS Specialist

Kathy Miller, M.S.
Program Director, RUPRI

Stan Wood, B.S.
Systems Administrator CARES.

2006 Accomplishments

In cooperation with the Rural Assistance Center, CIRC completed the "Am I Rural?" application which allows citizens and grant-seekers to determine if their location is "rural" and for which federal funds they may qualify.

<http://www.raconline.org/funding/rural.php>

CIRC completed an exciting dynamic reporting application to support the National Institute of Rural Community Colleges. This report summarizes community college-related and socio-economic data by various geographies including community college service areas and counties. The tool also includes the ability to draw a service area region and the ability to compare regions. <http://maps.rupri.org/nircc/>

As a part of core RUPRI support, CIRC staff worked closely with RUPRI staff to develop a framework for the Rural Strategic Investment Program. After the framework was developed, several map series were completed for target states and the entire nation. Additionally, CIRC created an on-line data entry and collection system for the monthly "RUPRI notes".

The Rural Early Childhood Mapping Initiative project continues to be renewed. Over the course of the 2006 contract year CIRC performed analyses and cartography to support the publication of five briefs. Additionally, CIRC continued to collect, process, and maintain child care databases from 12 pilot states in an effort to support the Atlas framework as well to enable disaster response.

CIRC made significant progress this year in the realm of community mobilization and human services. Specifically, through a relationship with Trident United Way in South Carolina, CIRC created an exciting new service area/eligibility area delineation tool which helps the United Way and programs themselves identify their client base. This tool, combined with a dynamic reporting tool of community indicators serves as a test bed for further United Way collaborations.

CIRC hired two new full-time GIS Specialists

Two CIRC staff members completed a training course on "Using the Census' American Community Survey"

Publications, Proceedings and Reports

Publication under Review:

Kaukinen, Catherine and Christopher Fulcher. "A Tool for Examining the Location and Distribution of HIV Service Providers: An Application of Internet GIS for Data Visualization." Revise and Re-Submit at *AIDS and Behavior*.

2006 Policy Education, Outreach

Federal / State Policy Arena Testimony, Briefings or Workshops

Fulcher, Christopher (Invited Participant). "Advancing the Field: Building Capacity for Continuous Collaboration." Brookings Institution, Washington, DC., July 18-19, 2006.

Fulcher, Christopher. "The Chain is only as Strong as its Weakest Link: The Role of the American Community Survey in Rural Public Policy Decision Making." Brookings Congressional Briefings on the Census: Better Data for Better Decisions: The Value of the American Community Survey to the Nation. Urban Markets Initiative, The Brookings Institution, June 23, 2006, Washington, DC.

Presentations, Speeches

Invited Lectures and Presentations:

Fulcher, Christopher. "Beyond Data: The Role of Soils Information in Agricultural and Environmental Decision Making." National Institute for Agricultural Science and Technology (NIAST), Suwon, South Korea, June 13, 2006.

Fulcher, Christopher. "Application of Information Technology and its Effects in Agriculture: A Report on the MU-RDA Collaborative Research Project and an Update on Research Activities at CARES." Rural Development Administration, Suwon, South Korea, June 12, 2006.

Fulcher, Christopher. "The Importance of Where in Understanding the Who, What, When, Why and How in Public Policy." Iowa State University Institute of Science and Society, Ames, IA, March 1, 2006.

Fulcher, Christopher. "Dynamic Mapping of Community Accessibility within an Integrated Community Resource Framework." National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, Washington DC, February 22, 2006.

Fulcher, Christopher. "Integrated GIS for Planning and Public Policy Decision Making." Midwest Transportation Consortium, Transportation Scholar Seminars Videoconference for Iowa and Missouri, February 17, 2006.

Fulcher, Christopher. "Informing Rural Public Policy: An Informatics Approach." Korea Rural Economic Institute, Seoul, South Korea, January 12, 2006.

Fulcher, Christopher. "The Role of Informatics in Municipal Government Decision Making and Community Development." Pyeongtaek City Mayor and Administration, Pyeongtaek City, South Korea, January 9, 2006.

Presentations at U.S. Meetings and Conferences:

Barbaro, Erin, David Hardy and Steve Katsinas. "Interactive Mapping and Data Mining: The Analysis and Mapping of Information about Rural America." 5th Annual Rural Community College Alliance Conference. Lexington, Kentucky. September 2006.

Barbaro, Erin. "Sharing Data for Emergency Preparedness: Child Care Resource and Referrals and the Early Childhood Atlas." NACCRRRA Institute for Professional Development. Albuquerque, New Mexico. August 2006.

Fulcher, Christopher (invited speaker). "Beyond the Technology: The Role of Internet Geographic Information Systems in Public Policy Decision Making for Higher Education Administration." 2006 National Collegiate FM Technology Conference, Columbia, Missouri, August 1-4, 2006.

Fulcher, Christopher, Cathy Grace and Elizabeth Shores (Co-presenters). "The Early Childhood Atlas: Using Maps for Policy Analysis and Advocacy." NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) Public Policy Forum, Washington D.C., March 15, 2006.

Presentations at International Meetings and Conferences:

Fulcher, Christopher. "Bridging the Rural-Urban Differential using Internet GIS for Policy Analysis." 44th Annual Conference of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA), Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, September 26-29, 2006.

Barnett, Yan and Christopher Fulcher (Co-presenters). "DisAbility Spin: Disability Community Connection in Missouri." 44th Annual Conference of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA), Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, September 26-29, 2006.

Fulcher, Christopher, Prof. Tirso Paris, Dr. D.S. Priyarsono, and Dr. Lee Dong Phil (Panel Discussants). Session on "Information Technology in Agriculture and Rural Sector." 5th Asia Pacific Agriculture Policy Forum. Cheju National University, Jeju Island, South Korea, September 13-17, 2006.

Facilitations, Technical Assistance Projects Completed

- Experimented with generating Internet-based videos and screen animations using Camtasia software. CIRC staff will implement more videos over the next year for online training and tutorials. A draft video is available for viewing at the following URL. Please be patient since the video takes a minute or two to load in your browser: <http://circ.rupri.org/videos/demo-1/tuw-demo-1-1.html>
- Emergency Preparedness Section, which includes natural hazards and the 2005 hurricane season, was added to the CIRC Internet GIS. <http://maps.rupri.org/step2.Data/nathaz.asp?STATUS=new>

Other Projects Completed

- The CIRC website and Internet GIS functionality was enhanced: <http://circ.rupri.org/>
 - CIRC brochure completed: <http://circ.rupri.org/about/circ%20brochure%20feb%202006%20-cwf.pdf>
- Central Missouri Food Bank project completed: A faith-based project with the Central Missouri Food Bank, aimed at data entry, spatial analysis, cartography and internet mapping development was completed. A data entry interface has been created within Access.

CIRC completed cartographic work resulting in 8 maps included in the final Faith Based Assessment Report

CIRC completed an on-line monthly reporting application using Active Server Programming. This tool allows food pantries across the state to complete their monthly reports on-line. The Central Missouri Food Bank was previously collecting paper reports and cutting off food to those agencies who had not submitted the report. The new application may aid in streamlining the process.

- Internet GIS: <http://ims.missouri.edu/cmfb/default.asp>
- 2005 – 2006: GIS Infrastructure Development and Technical Support for Health and Human Services Activities for the Rural Assistance Center (Source: University of North Dakota – Rural Assistance Center (subcontract through RUPRI to CIRC).

CIRC completed the “Am I Rural?” application which allows citizens and grant-seekers to determine if their location is “rural” and for which federal funds they may qualify. <http://www.raconline.org/funding/rural.php>

CIRC updated the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Service’s Point of Service maps and data throughout the year as updates were made available.

CIRC updated the Health Resource and Service Administration’s Health Professional Shortage Areas and Medically Underserved Area maps and data throughout the year as updates were made available.

CIRC added “Human Services” section to the interactive mapping application and collected datasets speaking to that topic.

- 2005 – 2006: RUPRI Rural Policy Project – Community College Initiative (Source: HHS - Office of Rural Health Policy (subcontract through RUPRI to CIRC).

CIRC completed an exciting dynamic reporting application. This report summarizes community college-related and socio-economic data by various geographies including community college service areas and counties. The tool also includes the ability to draw a service area region and the ability to compare regions. <http://maps.rupri.org/nircc/>

CIRC updated the community college database and mapping layers with the 2006 Carnegie Classification data.

- 2006: Rural Early Childhood Mapping Initiative – Phase IV (Source: National Center for Rural Early Childhood Learning Initiatives).

The Early Childhood Atlas’ Status Report generation tool was entirely re-designed to run off of a dynamically generated database. This redesign allows new datasets acquired by the Early Childhood Atlas to be reflected on the status report with minimal staff time.

Throughout the year the Early Childhood Atlas staff and CIRC have worked together to integrate core data elements from the 12 pilot states. These data are continually updated throughout the year, requiring staff time to process revolving updates.

CIRC performed analyses, cartography and table generation for the “Rebuilding After Katrina One-Year Report” <http://earlychildhood.msstate.edu/katrina-oneyear-report.pdf>

CIRC performed analyses, cartography and table generation for the "Emergency Preparedness Brief"
<http://earlychildhood.msstate.edu/emergencybrief.pdf>

CIRC performed analyses, cartography and table generation for the "Orleans Parish, Louisiana Report"
<http://earlychildhood.msstate.edu/orleans-summary/orleans-exec-sum.pdf>

CIRC performed analyses, cartography and table generation for the "Rebuilding After Katrina 6 month later Report"
<http://earlychildhood.msstate.edu/katrina-report.pdf>

CIRC performed analyses, cartography and table generation for the Mississippi Reading Score Report (not yet published)

CIRC collected hazard datasets to support the forthcoming project "The Early Childhood Disaster Risk Index". These datasets included hurricane forecasts, volcano locations, seismic layers, and tornado locations

- 2006: National Registry Alliance Project. In cooperation with the Rural Early Childhood Mapping Initiative

CIRC staff processed National Registry Alliance data collected from four pilot states. A program was written to process the nearly 600 layers for the internet mapping application. CIRC worked with the National Registry Alliance staff throughout the year to modify the mapping application.

- Knowledge Integration for Community Mobilization: A United Way Framework for addressing Efficiency, Equity, Impact and Community Sustainability (Source: Trident United Way, Charleston, SC).

CIRC made significant progress this year in the realm of community mobilization and human services. Specifically, through a relationship with Trident United Way in South Carolina, CIRC created an exciting new service area/eligibility area delineation tool which helps the United Way and programs themselves identify their client base. This tool, combined with a dynamic reporting tool of community indicators serves as a test bed for further United Way collaborations.

CIRC performed data development and processing of many national and Trident United Way databases such as the TUW 211 database, the TUW program database, the national donor catchments areas, TUW donor locations, TUW area grocery stores, TUW area bus stops, and national public libraries locations.

- Internet GIS: <http://maps.rupri.org/unitedway/>
- Service Area Reporting Tool: <http://maps.rupri.org/unitedway/servicearea/index.asp>

- 2006: Core RUPRI support

CIRC staff worked closely with RUPRI staff to develop a framework for the Rural Strategic Investment Program. After the framework was developed, several map series were completed for target states and the entire nation.

CIRC staff provided cartographic support to the RUPRI staff to facilitate conversations with congressional members and their staff.

CIRC completed the E-Rate analysis for Sharon Strover.

CIRC created an on-line data entry and collection system for the monthly "RUPRI notes".

To support his ongoing work with Anaconda, MT, CIRC worked with Tom Harris to integrate EPA Superfund Site data into the CIRC mapping application

Planned 2007 Products

- Knowledge Integration for Community Mobilization: A United Way Framework for addressing Efficiency, Equity, Impact and Community Sustainability (Source: Trident United Way, Charleston, SC).
 - Internet GIS: <http://maps.rupri.org/unitedway/>
 - Service Area Reporting Tool: <http://maps.rupri.org/unitedway/servicearea/index.asp>
- GIS Infrastructure Development and Technical Support for Health and Human Services Activities for the Rural Assistance Center (Source: University of North Dakota – Rural Assistance Center (subcontract through RUPRI to CIRC)).
 - Internet GIS: <http://www.raonline.org/maps/>
 - Am I Rural Interface: <http://maps.rupri.org/circ/racrural/amirural.asp>
- RUPRI Rural Policy Project – Community College Initiative (Source: HHS - Office of Rural Health Policy (subcontract through RUPRI to CIRC))
 - Internet GIS and Dynamic Reports: <http://circ.rupri.org/nircc/default.htm>
- Rural Early Childhood Mapping Initiative – Phase V (Source: National Center for Rural Early Childhood Learning Initiatives).
 - Homepage: <http://earlychildhood.msstate.edu/atlas/>
 - Internet GIS: <http://maps.rupri.org/RuralEC/step1.AOI/geogarea.asp?tool=keyindicator>
 - Dynamic Reports: <http://maps.rupri.org/RuralEC/step1.AOI/geogarea.asp?tool=statusreport>
 - Further emphasis this year on emergency preparedness; reconnaissance maps generated for 2007 Hurricane season.
- Completion of the Federal Funds Database Project (in cooperation with the Southern Rural Development Initiative)
 - Homepage: <http://circ.rupri.org/srdi/>
- Begin the LeHigh Valley Project
- Begin the United way of Southeast Michigan Project
- Continue to support RUPRI's Farm Bill and Rural Strategic Investment Policy-related analyses and cartography.

Rural Assistance Center (RAC)

RAC Advisory Board:

Susan Birch

Executive Director, Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice Services of Northwest Colorado

Tarryl Clark

Executive Director, Minnesota Community Action Association

Vaughn Clark

Director, Office of Community Development, Oklahoma Department of Commerce

Jerry Friedman

Executive Director, American Public Human Services Association

Charlotte Hardt

Interim Director, Washington State University Eastern Washington Area Health Education Center

Hilda R. Heady

Associate Vice President for Rural Health, West Virginia University Health Sciences Center

Greg Nycz

Executive Director, Family Health Center of Marshfield

Heather Reed

Administrator, Ohio Office of Rural Health, Ohio Department of Health

Gary Stangler

Executive Director, Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative

Jovita Tolbert

Deputy Director, Program Services, National Association for State Community Services Programs

Publications

Rural Monitor; Winter 2005/2006, Spring 2006 and Summer 2006, Fall 2006

Web-based publications:

Information Guides:

- Cultural Competence and Limited English Proficiency
- Frontier
- Health Literacy
- Networking and Collaboration
- Suicide Prevention
- Wellness and Prevention
- Child Support
- Home Health
- Hospice and Palliative Care
- Teen Pregnancy

State Resource Pages on *all 50* states.

2006 Policy Education and Outreach

Federal / State Policy Arena Testimony, Briefings or Workshops

Facilitated Rural Health Information Network (RHIN) meetings, February and June 2006.

Presentations, Speeches

Spencer, K. *Funding Sources for Health Information Technology*. Healthcare Financial Management Association, Colorado Chapter - Great Fall Conference. Glenwood Springs, Colorado, October 2006.

Spencer, K. *Using the Rural Assistance Center to Find Resources for Your Community*. Idaho Rural Health Association Biennial Meeting. Sun Valley, Idaho, May 2006.

Spencer, K. *Using the Rural Assistance Center to Find Community Project Resources*. South Dakota Grant Writer's Conference. Chamberlain, South Dakota, August 2006.

Sande, K. *Rural Health and Human Services Information for Rural America*, National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services. Grand Forks, ND, September 28, 2006.

Other Projects Completed

The Rural Assistance Center has provided health and human services information to many rural stakeholders in 2006. In the period from January 1 to December 31, 2006, over 426,961 unique visits have been made to RAC's web site. RAC's information specialists have responded to 998 requests for customized assistance. RAC has also distributed a biweekly Health listserv posting to a list which now includes 4,067 subscribers. In addition, the Human Services listserv posting has been distributed monthly to a list of 3,285 subscribers. The Rural Assistance Center has been active in outreach, having distributed over 20,000 promotional items in 2005.

Staff List

Project Staff:

- [Kristine Sande](#), MBA, Project Director
- [Maren Niemeier](#), MLIS, Lead Information Specialist
- [Mary Reinertson-Sand](#), MLS, Information Specialist
- [Kathleen Spencer](#), MLS, MS, Information Specialist
- [Holly Gabriel](#), MPH, MLS, Information Specialist
- [Julie Arnold](#), Web Designer
- [Naomi Lelm](#), BA, Project Assistant
- [Marilyn Fundingsland](#), BA, Project Assistant
- [Jocelyn B. Richgels](#), MPP, Associate Director of National Policy Programs, Rural Policy Research Institute
- [Erin Wilson](#), MA, GIS Specialist, Community Information Resources Center - Rural Policy Research Institute

Management Team:

- [Kristine Sande](#), MBA; RAC Project Director, Center for Rural Health, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences
- [Mary Wakefield](#), PhD, RN; Director, Center for Rural Health, University of North Dakota, School of Medicine and Health Sciences
- [Charles Fluharty](#), MDiv; Director, Rural Policy Research Institute
- [Keith Mueller](#), PhD; Director, Rural Policy Research Institute, Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis
- [Chris Fulcher](#), PhD; Director, Community Information Resources Center - Rural Policy Research Institute
- [Jocelyn B. Richgels](#), MPP; Associate Director of National Policy Programs, Rural Policy Research Institute

RUPRI Rural Telecommunications Panel

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

Publications

RUPRI Policy Briefs, Reports, White Papers, Policy Studies or Books

RUPRI Policy Brief on E-Rate in process

External Publications

Co-editing with panel member Steve McDowell issue for *Government Information Quarterly*, "Wireless Broadband" (with rural focus). Forthcoming, fall, 2006

"Wireless broadband, communities, and the shape of things to come" in *Government Information Quarterly*, fall 2006, forthcoming.

Related Publications

Authored paper on Universal Service and Rural U.S. for the Benton Foundation, to appear in book in 2007.

Presentations

Gregg, J., LaRose, R., Stover, S. and Straubhaar, J. (2006). Closing the Rural Digital Divide. Presentation at the International Communication Association, Dresden, Germany, June, 2006.

Stover, S., Straubhaar, J., LaRose, R., & Gregg, J. (2005). Rural Broadband Markets: A Field Study, Part I. Paper presented to the Telecommunications Policy Research Conference, Washington DC, September 30.

2006 Projects Completed

Worked with national group of scholars on Universal Service reform, anticipating new telecommunications legislation in 2006-2007. The Benton Foundation is catalyzing these efforts. Panel member Jorge Schement is leading the effort.

E-rate policy brief.

Universal Service research paper

RUPRI Community Policy Analysis Network (CPAN)

The Community Policy Analysis Network is a national network of researchers who collaborate on building predictive models and tools to support better informed state and community policy making. Over the years since its inception, CPAN has involved more than 50 researchers representing universities in 29 states.

2006 Accomplishments

CPAN published *Community Policy Analysis Modeling*, Edited by Thomas Johnson, Dan Otto, and Steve Deller. Blackwell Publishers, Ames, Iowa.

A book on Targeted Regional Economic Development is in development. This book will focus on targeted regional economic development strategies, how they have evolved over time, and provide information for policymakers and practitioners interested in understanding their regions' competitive advantages.

Publications

- Reum, Alison Davis and Thomas R. Harris. "Exploring Firm Location Beyond Simple Growth Models: A Double Hurdle Application", *The Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy*, 36(2006): 45-67.
- David L. Barkley, Mark S. Henry, and Rebekka Dundensing. "Targeting Growth Opportunities for Florence County, 2006." REDRL Research Report 05-2006-01, Regional Economic Development Research Laboratory, Clemson University, Clemson, SC.

Presentations

- Tom Harris made presentation as a panel member for the "Property Tax Limitations-Are They Succeeding? The Effects on Equity, Transparency, and Local Governments" Session of the Western States Association of Tax Administrators Meeting in South Lake Tahoe, Nevada, September 25.
- Presentation at EDA workshop titled "Growing the Regional Engines and Entrepreneurship and Innovations". Session titled "University Led Industry Cluster Development Efforts". Presentation was "Targeted Rural Economic Development" by Thomas R. Harris.
- Johnson, Thomas G. "A Theory of Place-Based Economic Policy". Presentations at the American Agricultural Economics association Meetings, July 25, 2006, Long Beach, California.
- Johnson, Thomas G. "The Changing Structure of Rural Business" Organized Symposium at the 2006 National Public Policy Education Conference, September 17, 2006, Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- Cooke, Stephen C., Leroy Stodick, and David Holland, "The Impact on Idaho's Economy of Increasing Sale Taxes \$210 million and Decreasing Property Taxes \$260 million," UI Economics Club, Moscow, Idaho, September 12, 2006.
- Cooke, Stephen C., "Testimony Comparing and Contrasting the Democrats and Republicans Property/Sales Tax Reform Proposals," Idaho House, Revenue and Taxation Committee, Boise, Idaho, August 25, 2006.

- Cooke, Stephen C., Leroy Stodick, and David Holland, "The Impact on Idaho's Economy of Increasing Sale Taxes \$210 million and Decreasing Property Taxes \$260 million," Legislative District 6 Public Hearing, Moscow, Idaho, August 8, 2006.
- Cooke, Stephen C., C. Scott Benson, and Don Holley. "Idaho General Fund Revenue FY06 Carryover to FY07: On-going and One-time Money" Legislative District 6 Public Hearing, Moscow, Idaho, August 8, 2006.
- Cooke, Stephen C. "A Decomposition of the Sources of Change in U.S. wages and salaries: 1978 -1998." NE-1011/Southern Regional Science Association Joint Session on Labor Market Issues, St. Augustine, FL, March 30, 2006.
- Cooke, Stephen C., Leroy Stodick, and David Holland, "The Impact on Idaho's Economy of Increasing Sale Taxes \$105 million and Decreasing Property Taxes \$125 million," Idaho Senate Local Government and Taxation Committee, Boise, Idaho, February 22, 2006.
- Cooke, Stephen C., Leroy Stodick, and David Holland, "Idaho Sales Tax: Increasing the Rate vs. Expanding the Base," Idaho Senate Local Government and Taxation Committee, Boise, Idaho, February 9, 2006.
- Cooke, Stephen C. "Impact of Wal-Mart on Small Towns and Moscow," Moscow Civic Association Meeting, Moscow, Idaho, January 9, 2006.
- Benson, Scott, Stephen Cooke, and Don Holley, "Revenue Forecast for the Idaho Legislature," Idaho Joint Legislative Economic Outlook and Revenue Assessment Committee, Boise, Idaho, January 6, 2006

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 Analytic and Academic Programs

The analytics program supports better rural and regional policy by expanding the variety and sophistication of tools available to social scientists interested in analyzing rural issues.

The academic program supports better rural and regional policy by expanding the number and capacity of social scientists interested in studying rural issues.

Thomas G. Johnson, Director of RUPRI Analytic and Academic Programs

2006 Accomplishments

The first version of the on-line Socio-Economic Benefit Assessment System (SEBAS) is now operational and being tested by USDA RD. The program is being applied to the agencies Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan program, but we are developing plans to extend it to several other loan, grant, loan guarantee, intermediary re-lending programs.

The International Comparative Rural Policy Studies (ICRPS) program had a successful summer institute in Canada (the third annual) in June and July. Next summer's institute will be in Catalonia Spain. In the mean time we are working with partners to write several grant proposals that would allow us to expand the program to Mexico and Brazil, and eventually to the rest of Central and South America.

The publication of the edited book, *Community Policy Analysis Modeling*, was the culmination of several years of work of RUPRI's Community Policy Analysis Network (CPAN). This volume should allow the extension of policy analysis modeling capacity beyond RUPRI's network of social scientists.

Publications

- Johnson, Thomas G., Daniel Otto and Steven Deller. *Community Policy Analysis Modeling*, pp. 315. Blackwell Publishing, Ames, Iowa.
- Johnson, Thomas G. and Daniel Otto and Steven C. Deller. Introduction to *Community Policy Analysis Modeling*, pp. 1-14, In *Community Policy Analysis Modeling*. Blackwell, Ames, Iowa, Ed. Johnson, Thomas G., Daniel Otto and Steven C. Deller. 2006.
- Scott, James K. and Thomas G. Johnson. *New Governance and the Changing Face of Rural America*, pp. 15-27, In *Community Policy Analysis Modeling*. Blackwell, Ames, Iowa, Ed. Johnson, Thomas G., Daniel Otto and Steven C. Deller. 2006.
- Scott, James K. and Thomas G. Johnson. *A National Infrastructure for Community Policy Analysis*, pp. 49-54, In *Community Policy Analysis Modeling*. Blackwell, Ames, Iowa. 2006.
- Johnson, Thomas G.. *Modeling the Local Labor Market*, pp. 83-94, In *Community Policy Analysis Modeling*. Blackwell, Ames, Iowa. 2006.
- Johnson, Thomas G. and James K. Scott. *The Show Me Community Policy Analysis Model*, pp. 117-127, In *Community Policy Analysis Modeling*. Blackwell, Ames, Iowa, Ed. Johnson, Thomas G., Daniel Otto and Steven C. Deller. 2006.
- Kovalyova, Anna E. and Thomas G. Johnson. *Evaluating the Performance of Community Policy Models*, pp. 205-217, In *Community Policy Analysis Modeling*. Blackwell, Ames, Iowa, Ed. Johnson, Thomas G., Daniel Otto, Steven C. Deller. 2006.
- Johnson, Thomas G. *On the Measurement of Benefits and Costs of Government Programs*. Working paper prepared for the Office of Management and Budget. May 2, 2006.
- Johnson, Thomas G. *Socio Economic Benefits Assessment System Research Log*. Working paper prepared for USDA Rural Development. August 16, 2006

2006 Policy Education, Outreach

Federal / State Policy Arena Testimony, Briefings or Workshops

- January 17, 2006. Measuring the Economic Impacts of USDA Rural Development Loans and Grants Programs. Presentation to USDA and OMB, Washington DC.
- January 17, 2006. Toward a Policy Model for Multifunctional Agriculture and Rural Development. Presentation to USDA CSREES and ERS. Washington, D.C.
- May 24, 2006. Update on the Socio-Economic Benefit Assessment System, to USDA Undersecretary for Rural Development and executive staff.
- September 7, 2006. Demonstration of the Socio-Economic Benefit Assessment System, to USDA Undersecretary for Rural Development and executive staff.
- October 5, 2006. Measuring Regional Economic Development presentation at a Rural Policy Briefing. Washington, D.C.

Presentations, Speeches

- May 27, 2006. Opportunities in Aboriginal Community College Education. Association of Canadian Community Colleges, Rural North America Conference, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- June 2, 2006. US Initiative to Promote Healthy Rural Communities, Presentation at the North American Super Corridor Coalition Meetings, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.
- June 12, 2006. Place-Based Economics Policy: Innovation or Fad. Presentation to the Northeast Agricultural and Resource Economics Annual Meeting, Mystic, Connecticut.
- June 23, 2006. Strategies for Economic Prosperity in Rural Communities, presentation to the Saskatchewan Council on Community Development, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.
- July 24, 2006. Toward a Theory of Place-based Economics Policy, in Place-based Economic Development Symposium at the American Agricultural Economics Association annual meetings, Long Beach, California.
- October 23, 2006. Regional Prosperity: Measuring What We Value, presentation to the Rural Policy Retreat. Tarrytown, New York, 10-23-2006.
- October 26, 2006. Measuring the Returns to Entrepreneurship Development., presentation to Exploring Rural Entrepreneurship: Imperatives and Opportunities for Research. Washington, D.C., 10-26-2006.
- December 6, 2006. The Changing Context for Rural Policy in the US. Presentation to the Agricultural University of Athens, Athens, Greece, 12-06-2006.
- November 17, 2006. The Agricultural and Rural Development Information System (ARDIS), presentation to the North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International. Toronto, Canada.
- July 25, 2006. Innovations in Graduate and On-line Teaching in Rural Economic Development, presentation to the American Agricultural Economics Association. Long Beach California.

Other Projects Completed

- May 27, 2006. Signed Memorandum of Understanding, creating the North American Rural Community College Alliance. Calgary, Alberta, Canada.
- June 26, 2006 – July 16. Taught at the International Comparative Rural Policy Studies summer school, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Canada.

RUPRI National Policy Programs

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 Constituent Relations

Jocelyn Richgels
Associate Director of National Policy Programs

2006 Accomplishments

- Established the Alliance for Rural Colleges, a partnership with the Association of Canadian Community Colleges, the Rural Community College Alliance and RUPRI.
- Developed relationships with national human service provider associations as the RUPRI Rural Human Service portfolio continues to develop.
- Convened a Rural Learning Community between Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland and rural Indiana.
- Conducted numerous rural health congressional briefings with RUPRI Rural Health Panel members and Rural Health Research Center Directors.
- Managed the National Rural Network, its regular meetings and the NRN joint budget response to the FY07 President's Budget.
- Convened a Rural Policy Retreat in conjunction with The Forum on Democracy & Trade and Georgetown Law Center.

Publications

- *Why Rural Matters II: The Rural Impact of the Administration's FY-07 Budget Proposal.* The document reflects twenty-five National Rural Network members' responses to the administrations budget.
- *Summary Reports* of daily review of farm policy newsletters to provide RUPRI leadership with concise and relevant analysis of relevant and timely farm, world trade and rural development policy issues.

Policy Education and Outreach

- The National Institute of Rural Community Colleges, a consortium which includes the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) and the Rural Community College Alliance (RCCA), joined the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) to establish the Alliance for Rural Colleges (ARC) and developed a North American dialogue and a joint Conceptual Framework, Vision and Work Plan.
- Outreach and networking for future RUPRI Rural Human Services and Poverty Policy Research Center continued.
- RUPRI rural health research leadership team organized a productive and comprehensive rural health retreat for key congressional rural health staff. Through continued rural health research information dissemination efforts, the rural health research and policy line received full appropriations funding in critical House of Representatives Labor-HHS FY07 appropriations.
- In conjunction with a Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Information Dissemination grant, conducted focus groups with key Senate and House rural health congressional staff to learn how they utilize rural health research policy briefs in their daily work.
- After consultation with Rural Health Research Center Directors at NRHA annual conference in May, have begun an information dissemination plan of rural health research findings to interested Congressional staff. Activities included a dedicated rural health research email address, quarterly newsletter and targeted outreach activities.

- Prepared document for the philanthropic community intended to guide their decision-making for potential involvement in rural policy.
- Provided policy guidance for CIRC human service collaborations, including a major framework for a national United Way service outcome analysis tool.
- In conjunction with The Forum on Democracy & Trade and Georgetown Law Center, convened at Pocantico Conference Center over 25 national rural development, conservation, community development and anti-hunger thought leaders in a conversation on a comprehensive future rural development strategy.
- Sponsored the Indiana RISE and Dumfries Galloway, Scotland Rural Leadership Learning Community, which included Indiana participants in attendance at the October OECD Conference, and community visits in Western Scotland. Continued the Indiana/DG exchange at the November Indiana Rural Summit and with follow-up video conferences.
- Monthly NRN meetings were held addressing various subjects including the impacts of the World Trade Organization negotiations on rural American, alternative energy and telecommunications.
- Hosted Rural Assistance Center Advisory Board meeting in conjunction with the RAC staff at the Center for Rural Health in North Dakota. The Advisory Board consisted of ten new members from health and human service delivery associations and practices.

Conferences and Presentations

- Presented at the Alternative Energy Workshop, Redwood Falls, Minnesota February, Conference of the North Americas, Association of Canadian Community Colleges, Alberta, Canada, May, Bush Foundation Trustee Retreat, June, and the Rural Conference, Portland Oregon, November.
- Represented RUPRI on a USDA Mid-America Rural Development tour through Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota.
- Highlighted to national human service provider associations, CIRC and the many tools available for their use to provide value-added services to their membership.
- RUPRI staff participated in many conferences of our partners organization including the National Association of Development Organizations, National Association of Counties, National Rural Development Partnership, USDA Ag Outlook Forum, Targeting Hope Rural Conference from World Vision, National Rural Health Association, Kellogg Foundation, Appalachian Regional Commission, Federal Home Loan Bank, Oregon Workforce and Council on Foundations, Farm Foundation Farm Bill Forums, National Rural Funders Collaborative Rural Poverty Conference.
- Attended numerous Congressional hearings and provided reports on testimony to RUPRI colleagues.

Goals and Strategic Directions for 2007

- 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.
- Provide 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 State Policy Programs

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

Publications

"State Rural Initiatives: Where the Money Comes From," a preliminary report prepared for and presented to the Agricultural Rural Chairs Summit, Phoenix, AZ -- now being revised and updated

"Rural Centers Work for Rural Legislators," in StateNews, the magazine of the Council of State Governments, August, 2006.

Op-ed in Montgomery Advertiser in re: creation of a rural policy center for Alabama

Federal / State Policy Arena Testimony, Briefings or Workshops

- Ag Chairs Summit, Phoenix AZ. Staff chair of subcommittee to put together rural development plenary and breakout sessions, represented RUPRI on Summit management team
- Testified before Oregon Governor's Task Force on Rural Development, consulted with director and members of task force
- Comments submitted to Texas Sunset Advisory Commission in support of continuation of the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA)

Presentations, Speeches

- Moderated plenary session on rural development at Ag Chairs Summit (speakers were Mark Drabenstott, Maxine Moul, and a panel on prospects for renewable energy)
- Addressed rally for rural Alabama hosted by speaker of the house and senate president in Montgomery, AL
- Addressed annual meeting of Texas Economic Development Council on best rural development practices - national perspective
- Addressed NADO Board of Directors on rural policy and practice in the states, national perspective
- Addressed Texas Association of Regional Councils board of directors on rural programming in Texas contrasted with other states

Facilitations, Technical Assistance Projects Completed

- Consulted with director, co-chair and members of Center for Rural Virginia, multiple occasions
- Planned and facilitated second meeting of state rural policy center directors in Warrenton, VA, adoption of name and certain formalized aspects of organization
- Planned and facilitated third meeting of Coalition of State Rural Policy Centers in Austin, TX, and fourth meeting in Annapolis, MD

- Planned and chaired educational meetings for Board of Directors, Texas Rural Foundation, featuring NC, IL and PA rural centers, Southern Bancorp and Nebraska Community Foundation
- On-going consultation with Texas Cooperative Extension, Community Resource and Economic Development, on community development conferences and programming

Other Projects Completed

- Survey of approx. 150 rural legislators concerning legislation introduced or planned
- Consultation on technology-based community development in rural Mississippi, with researcher for Mississippi Technology Alliance
- Maintained personal contact, by phone and personal visits with rural legislators and RUPRI "friends and colleagues" at Aspen Institute, NADO, NACO, Annie E. Casey Foundation, NRECA, Georgetown Law Center, NCSL, CSG and many rural legislators
- Created Texas Rural Innovators Forum, a series of forums exposing local leaders and statewide stakeholders to the best practices in rural development through invited speaker sessions every 6-8 weeks (see www.ruraltx.org). The Forums are on-going. Created non-profit corporation to support Forum.
- Represented RUPRI at annual meetings of Council of State Governments-East and CSG-Midwest

RUPRI Core Programs

<u>RUPRI Core Staff</u>	<u>2006 Accomplishments</u>
Charles Fluharty, President	<p>The RUPRI President and Executive Vice President continued to provide ongoing policy decision support for Congressional Members and staff, as well as the White House and federal departments and agencies.</p> <p>RUPRI'S weekly opinion column is published in over 100 newspapers and periodicals, with an estimated total circulation of 1 million readers per issue.</p> <p>RUPRI's President and Executive Vice President made numerous presentations at national conferences organizational meetings.</p> <p>RUPRI published a series of working papers and policy briefs to inform the debate on the new Farm Bill</p>
Brian Dabson, Executive Vice President	
Tom Rowley, 2006 RUPRI Fellow	
Kathleen Miller, Program Director	
Sally Coats, Fiscal Officer	
Lori Christopher, Administrative Assistant	
Susan Kelly, Fiscal Assistant	

Presentations, Charles W. Fluharty, President

March	"A New Rural Vision: Policy as Though Rural Communities and People Mattered" Council of State Community Development Agencies Legislative Training Conference, Washington, D.C.
March	"The Current U.S. Rural Policy Framework: Toward a Regional Rural Innovation Strategy" International Seminar on Rural Development And the Agroalimentary Sector: Future Strategies, Queretaro, Mexico
March	Testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives, House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Rural Development and Research
April	Presentation to the North Central Higher Learning Commission Meeting. Chicago, Illinois
May	Speech to the National Association of Development Organizations Conference, Kansas City, Missouri
June	"A New Rural Vision: Policy as Though Rural Communities and People Mattered" Presented to: Cultivating Hope, Harvesting Action: The 6th Regional Conference on Rural Poverty and Social Change
June	Beyond the Cities: Agriculture, Rural Development, and a New Rural Policy Framework: Toward a Regional Rural Innovation Strategy. Presented to the Global Agricultural Forum, 2006 "Beyond the Cities" Mexico City, Mexico
June	"The Past is Prologue" A Facilitator's Perspective. Presented to the Indiana Rural Development Council Leadership and Planning Retreat. Henryville, Indiana
July	Presentation to the Southern Legislative Conference Annual Forum. Louisville, Kentucky

- August "An Opportunity in the New Farm Bill: Can Rural Initiatives and Farm Programs Be Aligned?" Speech to the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, 2006 NCSL Annual Meeting. Nashville, Tennessee
- September "A New Rural Vision: Policy as Though Rural Communities and People Mattered" Speech to the Rural Funders Fall Forum, Neighborhood Funders Group 2006 Annual Conference: Building Community, Building Assets: Race, Place & Equity
- October "A New Rural Vision: Policy as Though Rural Communities and People Mattered" Speech to the Missouri Rural Health Association Annual Conference
- October "Crafting a Way Forward: The Rural / Urban Dynamic in Regional Competitiveness" Presented to the OECD/Scottish Executive Conference: Investment Priorities for Rural Development
- November "The Way Forward" . . . Bridging the Philanthropy / Rural Policy Divide. A Background Briefing Report to the National Rural Funders Collaborative (NRFC), in preparation for a consultative dialogue with the U.S. foundation community interested in national rural policy issues.
- November "The Way Forward:" . . . Bridging the Ag / Rural Policy and Urban / Rural Constituency Divide. Presented to the Indiana Rural Summit, Indianapolis, Indiana
- November "The Past as Prologue: LEADER+ as a Bridging Model Across the Rural Policy / Practice Chasm" Presented to the UK Leader+ Network Conference: A Celebration of LEADER+. Nairn, Scotland
- December Rural Development Opportunities in the Next Farm Bill: Aligning Rural Initiatives and Ag Policies in a "Regional Rural Innovation System" Presented to the Pennsylvania Farm Bill Listening Session, Lock Haven University. Lock Haven, Pennsylvania.

Presentations, Brian Dabson, Executive Vice President

- January *Is there a future for the rural economy?*
Promoting Economic Success for Montana Families Conference (National Conference of State Legislatures), Helena, MT (Keynote)
- February *Rural America in a Flat and Creative World*
Community Clustering Initiative Meeting, Coos Bay, OR (Presenter)
- April *Cities, Small Towns and the Countryside: Shifting Perspectives*
The Smart Growth Funders' Network Conference, Chicago, IL (Workshop)
- April *Entrepreneurship and Wealth Creation in Greater Minnesota*
RED Group Conference, Minneapolis, MN (Keynote)
- May *Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship, and Governance in Rural America*
Mississippi Entrepreneurial Alliance Conference, Oxford, MS (Presenter)
- May *No Hiding Place*
NASULGC/ECOP Leadership Advisory Council, Denver, CO (Presenter)
- June *Why Entrepreneurship? A Vision and Policy Pointers for Maine*
Enterprise Development Works! Policy Forum, Augusta, ME (Keynote)

- June *Addressing the diversity of rural places*
National Rural Funders Collaborative Conference, Washington DC (Workshop)
- June *Getting To There From Here: Rural and Regional Development*
National Association of Regional Councils 40th Annual Conference
"Regional Readiness Responding to Change", San Antonio, TX (Keynote)
- July *Entrepreneurship as Rural Economic Development Policy: A Changing Paradigm*
Annual International Community Development Society Conference, St. Louis, MO (Workshop)
- July *The Only Constant is Change: Trends Affecting the Future of Rural Communities and What You Can Do About It*
Regards to Rural IV Conference, Kah-Nee-Ta Resort, Warm Springs, OR (Workshop)
- October *Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship, and Governance in Rural America*
Virginia's 2006 Rural Summit, Roanoke, VA (Keynote)
- October *Can Missouri's Rural Communities Prosper in a Flat World?*
Missouri Community Benefit Organization Annual Conference, Columbia, MO (Keynote)
- October *The Imperative for Creating a Rural Entrepreneurship Research Agenda*
RUPRI-ERS Exploring Rural Entrepreneurship Conference, Washington DC (Opener)
- November Moderator, State Policies to Address Rural Poverty Workshop: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Conference, Bethesda, MD
- November Rural Development IV: Entrepreneurship and Innovation Workshop: 53rd Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International, Toronto, Canada

Presentations by other RUPRI Core Staff

- April Spatial Variations in Factors Affecting Poverty.
Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law and Policy 2006 Symposium: Forgotten America: Fighting Poverty in Rural Communities. Kathleen Miller
- April Speech on current trends in rural conditions and policies to Texas Organization of Rural Community Hospitals, Dallas Texas. Tom Rowley

Publications

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

Targeting Rural Populations based on Urbanized Area Geographies. RUPRI Farm Bill Policy Brief #1. Kathleen Miller and Charles W. Fluharty.

What does Finland Have That We Don't? RUPRI Farm Bill Policy Brief #2. Wayne D. Myers.

Micropolitan Areas Overview. RUPRI Internal Working Paper. Kathleen Miller

Urban/Rural Areas and CBSAs. RUPRI Internal Working Paper. Kathleen Miller