

2024

Governor's Summit

ON RURAL PROSPERITY



Rural Center

Partnership of the Senator Frank M. Ruff, Jr.
Center for Rural Virginia and the
Council for Rural Virginia



Wytheville, VA

www.cfrv.org/summit

Agenda

Tuesday, October 29

Scan the QR code to
view biographies:



10:30am - 11:45am **Registration & Exhibits Open at the Wytheville Meeting Center**

Location: 333 Community Blvd, Wytheville, VA 24382

11:30am **Lunch Buffet Opens**

12:10pm - 12:20pm **Rural Summit Begins & Welcome**

Kristie Proctor, Executive Director, Virginia Rural Center

Senator Creigh Deeds, 11th Senate District, Chair, Senator Frank M. Ruff, Jr. Center for Rural Virginia

12:20pm - 1:15pm **Panel: "Wytheville- There's Only One!" Capturing Assets of a Rural Community**

This panel will highlight Wytheville and the surrounding Southwest Virginia region through presentations featuring the downtown Wytheville Main Street program, how local labs support Virginia's animal agriculture industry, and the role of natural resources and outdoor recreation in the local economy.

Introduction: Jay Poole, Council for Rural Virginia Board Member

Moderator: Senator Emily Jordan, 17th Senate District, Vice Chair, Senator Frank M. Ruff, Jr. Center for Rural Virginia

Panelists:

Matthew Lohr, Virginia's Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry

Travis Voyles, Virginia's Secretary of Natural & Historic Resources

Todd Wolford, Executive Director at Downtown Wytheville, Inc.

1:15pm - 1:30pm **Keynote Remarks**

Governor Glenn Youngkin

Introduction provided by Senator Emily Jordan, 17th Senate District, Vice Chair, Senator Frank M. Ruff, Jr. Center for Rural Virginia

1:30pm - 1:35pm **Special Message (via video)**

First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin

1:35pm - 1:50pm **Featured Speaker**

Lt. Governor Winsome Earle-Sears

Introduction provided by Delegate Chris Runion, 35th House District, Board Member, Senator Frank M. Ruff, Jr. Center for Rural Virginia

1:50pm - 2:05pm **Featured Speaker**

Caren Merrick, Virginia's Secretary of Commerce & Trade

Introduction provided by Bryan David, Chairman, Council for Rural Virginia

2:05pm - 2:10pm **Sponsor Spotlight**

Shelley Woods, Strategic Lending Loan Originator, Virginia Housing

2:10pm - 2:40pm **Break & Exhibits Open**

2:40pm - 3:00pm **Special Announcement: Launch of Rural Virginia Opportunity Dashboard**

Chandler Vaughan, Development Consultant, Virginia Rural Center

Agenda

Tuesday, October 29 (continued)

3:30pm - 5:00pm **Experiential Opportunities** ([attendees will choose one](#))

- Downtown Wytheville Guided Walking Tour (150 East Monroe St, Wytheville, VA)
- The Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Wytheville Animal Health Lab (250 Cassell Rd, Wytheville, VA)
- The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources State Fish Hatchery (1260 Red Hollow Rd, Max Meadows, VA)

6:30pm - 8:00pm **Evening Reception at Bolling Wilson Hotel**

170 E. Main Street, Wytheville, VA 24382

Guest Speaker: Mayor Dr. Beth Taylor

Evening Reception Sponsor:



BOLLING WILSON HOTEL
AT WYTHEVILLE

Wednesday, October 30

7:30am - 8:15am **Breakfast Buffet**

Location: Wytheville Meeting Center, 333 Community Blvd, Wytheville, VA 24382

8:15am **Welcome Remarks**

Bryan David, Chair, Council for Rural Virginia

Invocation

Liz Povar, Board Member, Senator Frank M. Ruff, Jr. Center for Rural Virginia

8:30am - 9:00am **Rural Virginia Economic Development Update**

Jason El Koubi, President & CEO, Virginia Economic Development Partnership

9:00am - 9:30am **Rural Broadband Update**

Bryan Horn, Director, Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development

Dr. Tamarah Holmes, Director, Office of Broadband, Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development

9:35am - 10:05am **Virginia Rural Leadership Institute, Class of 2024 Community Impact Project Presentations**

Presented by Lindsey Watson, Board Member, Senator Frank M. Ruff, Jr. Center for Rural Virginia

10:05am - 10:10am **Sponsor Spotlight**

Sarah Hackney, External Affairs Representative, Dominion Energy

10:10am - 10:30am **Break & Exhibits Open**

10:30am - 11:30am **Breakout Sessions/Panel Discussions:**

Option #1 Panel: Attracting the Next Generation Workforce to Rural Virginia

This panel will explore strategies across multiple sectors- housing, public safety, and education- for elevating workforce development in rural communities.

Moderator: Senator Tammy Mulchi, 9th Senate District

Panelists:

John Clair, Chief of Police, Town of Marion

John Matthews, Economic Developer & Deputy Director at the Joint IDA of Wythe County, Virginia

Dr. Julie Brown, Vice President of Advanced Learning at Institute for Advanced Learning and Research

Wednesday, October 30 (continued)

Option #2 Panel: Innovation in Rural Healthcare

This panel will explore challenges and innovation in healthcare for our rural communities.

Introductions:

Dave Nutter, Director of Rural Initiatives, Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association

Beth O'Connor, Executive Director, Virginia Rural Health Association

Moderator: Delegate Amy Laufer, 55th House District, Board Member, Senator Frank M. Ruff, Jr. Center for Rural Virginia

Panelists:

Penni Kyte, Digital Care Strategy Officer, Ballad Health

Vicki Parks, Chief Executive Officer, Wytheville Community Hospital

Paul Davenport, Vice President, Carilion Clinic

Mary Brandenburg, Director of Population Health, Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association

Option #3 Panel: Rural Energy Collaboration

This panel will focus on rural energy generation, the growing need for more energy in our rural communities, and discuss energy innovations and opportunities

Introduction: Delegate Eric Phillips, 48th House District

Moderator: James Campos, Executive Director, Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission

Panelists:

Dr. Peter Muhoro, Chief Strategy, Technology, and Innovation Officer, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative

Will Payne, Managing Partner, Coalfield Strategies, LLC

Katharine Bond, Managing Partner and Founder, iliox

Jerry Silva, Director of Energy Innovation & Development, Virginia Tobacco Revitalization Commission

11:30am -12:10pm **Lunch Buffet is Open**

12:10pm - 12:30pm **Update on Hurricane Helene Recovery Efforts**

Shawn Talmadge, State Coordinator of Emergency Management, Virginia Department of Emergency Management

Introduction provided by Delegate Chris Obenshain, 41st House District

12:30 - 1:15pm **Accelerate Southwest Virginia Update & Discussion**

Introduction: Eddie Ramirez, Board Member, Senator Frank M. Ruff, Jr. Center for Rural Virginia

Moderator: Assistant Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, Corey Scott

Panelists:

Senator Travis Hackworth, 5th Senate District

Delegate Jed Arnold, 46th House District

Delegate Terry Kilgore, 45th House District

Delegate O'Quinn, 44th House District

1:15 - 1:30pm **Featured Speaker**

Speaker Don Scott, 88th House District

Introduction provided by Senator Creigh Deeds, 11th Senate District, Chair, Senator Frank M. Ruff, Jr. Center for Rural Virginia

1:30pm Rural Summit Concludes

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