

Small Communities, BIG Solutions Conference Agenda

November 8-9, 2023

Locations: West Virginia Osteopathic School of Medicine

November 8, 2023

- 10:15 – 12:00 p.m. **High Rocks Tour (Meet at WVSOM and walk over)**
Experience the High Rocks transformative social enterprises and workforce development programs—the Hub, Cafe and Tech Express, and tour the Lee Street Artist Studios and Complex redevelopment project before the conference!
- 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. **Registration**
- 12:20 **Welcome**
Brandon Dennison
- West Virginia Grant Resource Centers Training**
Moderators: Emily Bammer, Morgan Saunders
- 12:30 – 1:00 p.m. **West Virginia Grant Resource Centers Overview**
- 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. **Seeking and Finding Grants + Q&A**

10 Minute Break
- 1:40 – 2:10 p.m. **Writing a Strong Grant Proposal + Q&A**
- 2:10 – 2:40 p.m. **Building and Maximizing Community Partnerships + Q&A**

10 Minute Break
- 2:50 – 3:20 p.m. **Developing a Budget and Budget Narrative + Q&A**
- 3:20 – 3:50 p.m. **Identifying Matching Funds + Maximizing Sustainability+ Q&A**

10 Minute Break
- 4:00 – 4:30 p.m. **Drafting a Compelling Letter of Intent + Thinking Like a Reviewer + Q&A**
- 4:30 – 5:00 p.m. **Networking**
- 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. **Dinner Buffet**
- 5:15 p.m. **Update on Rural Partners Network (RPN)**
Ryan Thorn, USDA
- 5:30 p.m. **Aligning Higher Education for the Workforce of Tomorrow: Strategies and Partnerships for Economic Growth**
Moderator: Bill Bissett, State Director, U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito's Office

Panelists: President Kendra Boggess, President Ericke Cage, President Bonny Copenhaver, President James Nemitz, President Casey Sacks, President Brad Smith, President Ramon Stuart

6:30 p.m.

Depart

November 9, 2023

8:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Registration

8:00 a.m.

Breakfast and Networking

9:00 a.m.

Welcome/The Day Ahead

- Stephanie Tyree
- Coalfield Representative
- Brandon Dennison

Remarks: Dr. James Nemitz, President, West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine

State Workforce Update

9:20 a.m.

Scott Adkins, Workforce WV Commissioner
Dr. Heather Stephens, WVU (Labor force participation)

Congressional Update

10:00 a.m.

U.S. Senator Joe Manchin

U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito

Congressional Representatives

11:00 a.m.

Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session 1: Addiction, Recovery and Reentry

Moderator: Susan Mullens

Panelists: Jeremy Truman, Phil Shimer, Amy Saunders, Beverly Sharp, Marie Bechtel

Breakout Session 2: Health Sector Workforce

Moderator: Terri Baker

Panelists: Haylee Heinsberg, Dara Vance, Andrew Bailes, Tameran Asbury, Rev. Stephen Baldwin Jr.

Breakout Session 3: Lifelong Learning and Continuous Development – Generations and Demographics

Moderator: Dr. Michelle Taylor

Breakout Session 4: Tech and Workforce Development

Moderator: Brandon Dennison

Panelists: Alex Weld, Julia Spears

12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:00 – 1:40 p.m.

Legislative Lookahead: Anticipating Policy Priorities

- **Richie Heath**, Bowles Rice LLP
- **Speaker Roger Hanshaw**, WV House of Delegates
- **Delegate Shawn Hornbuckle**, WV House of Delegates
- **Senator Mike Maroney**, WV State Senate
- **Senator Jack Woodrum**, WV State Senate

1:45 p.m.

Premier Sponsor: Andrew Dawson, Market President, United Bank

2:00 p.m.

West Virginia's Trailblazers: Celebrating Success Stories

Power of Performance Awards
Small Communities, BIG Solutions Advocate 2023
Presented by: **Stephanie Tyree**, The HUB

2:30 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session 4: Benefits Cliff

Moderator: Marilyn Wrenn

Panelists: Josiah Hannah, Kelli Crabtree, Sarah Bryan, Opal Collinsworth

Breakout Session 5: Apprenticeships

Moderator: Dave Lavender

Panelists: Carol Ann Howerton, Olivia McCuskey, Dr. Jeff Hunter, Charlotte Web

Breakout Session 6: Utilizing the Student Workforce

Moderator: Brittany Masters

Panelists: Philip Lewis, Jenna Vanhooose, Sarah Riley

4:00 p.m.

Closing Remarks

4:15 p.m.

ACT Now Meeting