



# National Association of Counties 2016 Rural Action Caucus Symposium

Leon County (Tallahassee), Florida

*December 7-9*

## Wednesday, December 7

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Rural Impact County Challenge - Community Coaching Award Winners Meeting**

**\*INVITATION ONLY\***

*Counties selected to receive Community Coaching from the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps program will engage in strategic thinking and discussions about the upcoming year.*

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**RAC Welcome Reception**

## Thursday, December 8

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

**Networking Breakfast**

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

**Welcome and Introductions**

- **The Hon. J.D. Clark**, Judge, Wise County, Texas; Chair, Rural Action Caucus
- **Doug O'Brien**, Executive Director, White House Rural Council

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

**Poverty in Rural America: Setting the Stage for Success**

*During NACo's 2016 Annual Conference at the RAC Business Meeting, over 100 members participated in an interactive survey examining the current state of poverty and various obstacles and challenges facing counties combating chronic poverty. The session will examine the results from the interactive survey and set the stage for the day's programming.*

- **Doug O'Brien**, Executive Director, White House Rural Council

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

**Networking Break**

9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

**Evidence-Based Engineering: Using Data to Build a Better Tomorrow**

*Data is critical to effectively and efficiently tackling the factors and symptoms of chronic poverty. This session will bring together an expert panel on identifying metrics, measuring success and using data to tell your county's story.*

- **Kitty Jerome** – Director of Coaching and Outreach, Action Center at County Health Rankings & Roadmaps
- **Dr. Emilia Istrate** – Research Director, National Association of Counties
- TBD – Esri

- 11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**      **Counties on the Frontlines of Poverty**  
*Rural counties are successfully leveraging data and implementing effective strategies to reduce poverty. This peer panel will bring together county officials tackling poverty within their community head-on as we discuss their struggles and successes.*
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**      **Networking Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**      **Prosperity 2026: Mapping the Future of Rural America**  
*The culmination of our focus on poverty – this session will allow attendees to engage in an interactive discussion and teambuilding exercise to forecast the future of poverty in rural communities over the next ten years. Members will use previous discussions, materials and examples to identify the tools necessary to build a model of prosperity in rural communities.*
- 2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**      **Arts & Health in the Military**  
*One of NACo's long-term partners, Americans for the Arts, recently developed the National Initiative for Arts & Health in the Military (NIAHM) which seeks to advance the arts in health, healing, and healthcare for military service members, veterans, their families and caregivers. This panel will discuss the current status of NIAHM in providing healthcare to our military communities, expanded opportunities for 2017, and how county governments can partner with this program.*
- **Jay Dick**, Senior Director of State and Local Government Affairs, Americans for the Arts
  - **Marete Wester**, Senior Director of Arts Policy, Americans for the Arts
- 3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**      **Networking Break**
- 3:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.**      **2017 RAC Strategy Session**  
*The group will examine caucus and member activities over the past year during a "2016 Year in Review." Additionally, RAC members will identify goals and metrics for the coming year as we chart a course to another successful year with the Rural Action Caucus.*
- **Arthur Scott**, Associate Legislative Director, National Association of Counties
- 5:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**      **Closing Remarks**
- **The Hon. J.D. Clark**, Judge, Wise County, Texas; Chair, Rural Action Caucus
  - **Doug O'Brien**, Executive Director, White House Rural Council
- 5:30 p.m.**      **Adjourn**
- 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**      **RAC/Board Reception**  
Florida Governor's Mansion  
700 N Adams Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
*Transportation provided from main entrance at DoubleTree Hotel beginning at 5:30 p.m.*
- 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**      **RAC/Board Dinner**  
Mission San Luis  
2100 W Tennessee Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32304  
*Return shuttle transportation provided back to the DoubleTree Hotel*

## Friday, December 9

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

**RAC/BOD Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Mobile Workshop: Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy**

*The Tall Timbers Research Station is recognized as the home of the study of fire ecology and is an advocate to protect the right to use prescribed fire for land management. The Land Conservancy is also recognized as one of the nation's leading land trusts, as it has protected traditional land uses in north Florida and south Georgia by conserving more than 128,000 acres in this region through conservation easements. Lunch will be served. Transportation provided from main entrance at DoubleTree Hotel at 9:00 a.m. sharp.*

2:00 p.m.

**Adjourn**

*For anyone who wants to attend the Board Meeting at the Turnbull Center, transportation will be provided from the main entrance of the DoubleTree Hotel at 2:15 p.m.*

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