WELCOME!

Welcome to *Strengthening Economies in the Wyoming: A Forum for Coal-Reliant Communities*!

The National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation, with the support of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) Denver Regional Office, thank you for joining us in Campbell County for this event.

This educational and interactive forum is designed to convene and assist counties and regions in Wyoming that are experiencing economic challenges due to the changing conditions of the coal industry. The meeting is designed to bring together stakeholders from the public and private sectors to share best practices, lessons learned and new opportunities to support economic diversification and other economic development efforts. We are excited for two days of plenary sessions and smaller group discussions covering a variety of topics including strategic planning and partnerships; workforce development and education; and community engagement. This forum will also present plenty of opportunities for networking with peers, state and federal officials and other practitioners working in economic and community development at the local, regional and statewide level.

This forum is the fourth state-based convening hosted by NACo and the NADO Research Foundation through the *Building Stronger Economies in the West* regional initiative. Similar events were held in Richfield, Utah in October 2017; Billings, Montana in April 2018; and Delta, Colorado in September 2018. A larger, team-based challenge convening for communities across the four-state region is currently being planned for spring of 2019.

This three-year *Building Stronger Economies in the West* effort is made possible through the generous support of the U.S. EDA Denver Regional Office. In addition to the in-person trainings and workshops, we will continue to offer ongoing support and technical assistance to coal-reliant counties and regions across the West through a biweekly newsletter and educational webinar series.

This event was developed with the support of the U.S. Economic Development Administration Denver Regional Office. Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed during this event do not necessarily reflect the views of NACo, NADO RF or U.S. EDA.
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**Let’s Get Social!**

We invite you to please interact with us on social media throughout the event.

**Facebook:**  
@National Association of Counties(NACo) | @NADO.org

**Twitter:**  
@NACoTweets | @NADOWeb

**LinkedIn:**  
@NACo | @NADO | @EntreWorks Consulting

Use and follow the hashtag #readytodiversify!

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**Meeting Location**

Forum sessions on Monday (Oct. 8th) and Tuesday (Oct.9th) will be based at the CAM-PLEX Energy Hall in Gillette. A networking reception will be held on Monday evening (Oct 8th) at the Area 59 Center for Innovation in Gillette.

**October 8th – 9th**
CAM-PLEX Energy Hall  
1635 Reata Dr., Gillette, WY 82718

**October 8th Reception**
Area 59 Center for Innovation  
3207 S Douglas Hwy, Gillette, WY 82718

*See Page 8 for Map*
**Agenda**

All sessions will be held at the CAM-PLEX Energy Hall, unless otherwise noted.

### Monday October 8th

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 – 8:30am</td>
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| 8:30 – 9:00am | Welcoming Remarks
  - Jack Morgan, Program Manager for Community & Economic Development, National Association of Counties (NACo)
  - Hon. Mark A. Christensen, Chairman, Campbell County Board of Commissioners
  - Hon. John Barrasso, United States Senator, Wyoming |
| 9:00 – 9:45am | Realities in Energy: Coal Bright Future
  - Doug Matheney, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy |
| 9:45 – 10:30am | The Future of Coal and Implications for Campbell County and Wyoming
  - Dale Niezwaag, Vice President of Government Relations, Basin Electric Power Cooperative
  - Mike Easley, Chief Executive Officer, Powder River Energy Corporation
  - Hon. Mark Christensen, Chairman, Campbell County Board of Commissioners (Moderator) |
| 10:30 – 10:45am | Networking Break |
| 10:45 – 11:30am | Regulatory & Markets Update: The State of Rollback, Electricity Market Issues and Introduction to the 'Life: Powered' Initiative
  - Michael Nasi, Director, Life: Powered Initiative |
| 11:30 – 12:30pm | Luncheon |
| 12:30 – 1:30pm | Building Stronger Economies: An Overview of Economic Diversification
  - Dr. Erik Pages, President, Entreworks Consulting |
| 1:30 – 2:30pm | Roadmaps to Diversification: Planning and Community Engagement Perspectives from Montana
  - Jim Atchison, Executive Director, Southeast Montana Development Corporation
  - Becky Bey, Government Relations Specialist, KLJ Engineering |
2:30 – 2:45pm  Networking Break

2:45 – 3:15pm  Innovative Approaches to Building Prosperity in Rural America
  • Anne Hazlett, Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture

5:00 – 6:30pm  Networking Reception
  Area 59 Center for Innovation
  3207 S Douglas Hwy, Gillette, WY

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**Tuesday October 9th**

7:30 – 8:00am  Breakfast Networking

8:00 – 8:30am  Morning Keynote
  • Hon. Matthew H. Mead, Governor, State of Wyoming

8:30 – 9:45am  Building Stronger Economies in Wyoming: Spotlight on ENDOW (Economically Needed Diversity Options for Wyoming)
  • Jerimiah Rieman, Director of Economic Diversification Strategy, Office of Governor, Matthew H. Mead
  • Hon. Mark Christensen, Chairman, Campbell County Board of Commissioners
  • Hon. Michael Von Flatern, Wyoming State Senate & Chairman, Senate Committee on Minerals, Business & Economic Development
  • Sarah Fitz-Gerald, Industrial Development Manager, Wyoming Business Council
  • Chad Rupe, Wyoming State Director, USDA Rural Development
  • Dr. Erik Pages, President, Entreworks Consulting (Moderator)

9:45 – 10:00am  Networking Break

10:00 – 10:45am  Innovative Opportunities for Advanced Coal
  • Dr. Mark Northam, Director, School of Energy Resources, University of Wyoming
  • Jim Ford, Vice President, Atlas Carbon
  • Phil Christopherson, CEO, Energy Capital Economic Development (Moderator)

10:45am – 12:00pm  Serving Wyoming and the Nation Through Research Partnership
  • Dr. Mark Northam, Director, School of Energy Resources, University of Wyoming
  • Dr. Michael Pishko, Dean, University of Wyoming College of Engineering & Applied Sciences
  • Jason Begger, Executive Director, Wyoming Infrastructure Authority
12:00 – 1:00pm Luncheon
The Importance of Commercial Air Service: A Spotlight on Campbell County
• Hon. Micky Shober, Commissioner, Campbell County
• Hon. Michael Von Flatern, Wyoming State Senate & Chairman, Senate Committee on Minerals, Business & Economic Development

1:00 – 2:00pm Building a Skilled Workforce for the Future: Partnerships with Higher Education
• Dr. Mark Englert, CEO, Gillette College
• Paul Hladky, Vice President, Cyclone Drilling

2:00 – 2:15pm Networking Break

2:15 – 3:30pm Wyoming For Your Tech Startup
• David Pope, Executive Director, Wyoming Blockchain Coalition

3:30 – 4:00pm Takeaways, Concluding Thoughts & Next Steps
• Jack Morgan, Program Manager, National Association of Counties (NACo)
Gillette, Wyo.

CAM-PLEX Energy Hall
📍 1635 Reata Dr.

Area 59 Center for Innovation
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