

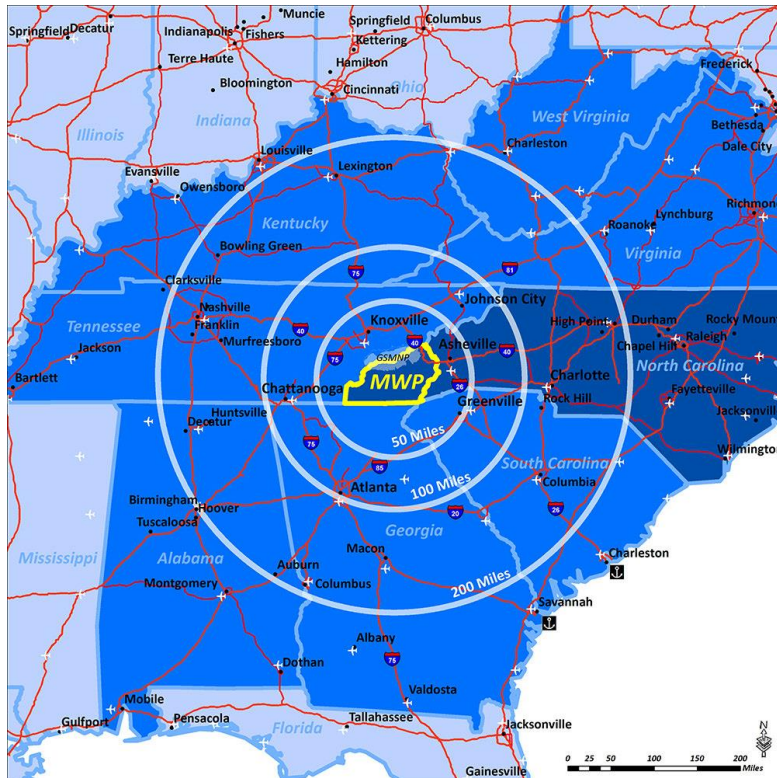
# Sarah Thompson

Executive Director  
Southwestern Commission (NC)





# Our Region





# CEDS Steering Committee

## Our goals for committee formation

- Cross sector and intra-office representation
- Implementation
- Engage the next generation





# Implementation

Our CEDS process for 2022 started on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2017

- Since the completion of our CEDS we have had more than 150 face to face contacts with members of our committee.
- Supporting their implementation projects makes it easier to engage them in the future.

Some of the ways that we continue to engage our partners:

- Workforce Development Board
- Mountain West Partnership
- RPO
- Publications and media
  - Newsletter
  - Social Media



# Engage the Next Generation

<b>Objective 3</b>	<i>Expand community capacity in Region A by continuing to foster, encourage and support the region's leaders</i>
<b>Strategy 1</b>	Grow the impact and reach of the Millennial Campus at Western Carolina University as an initiative for university faculty and students, businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies to work together in applied research, projects, and programming that benefits the region
<b>Strategy 2</b>	Continue to work toward the formation of a Regional Rural Leadership Institute that prepares future leaders for the region
<b>Strategy 3</b>	Encourage nonprofits and civic organizations in the region to include youth and young adult representatives on their board of directors



“It was relieving to see people discussing how to better our communities treating each other with so much respect even when they had a difference of opinion. I think the biggest challenges facing our community in the next 5 years are the creation of jobs to help young people in the area and access to more affordable housing”

Holly Miller  
10<sup>th</sup> grader  
Smoky Mountain High School