Draft Agenda

National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) & Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA)

Washington Conference
March 17-20, 2019 | Crystal Gateway Marriott
1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA

- To register for the conference, click here.
- To add a reminder to your calendar, click here.
- To make hotel reservations at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, please contact Vicki Glass at vglass@nado.org or 202-841-8139.

Please note: this draft agenda is subject to change.
Sunday, March 17, 2019

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. NADO Research Foundation Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Registration

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. DDAA Board Meeting and Luncheon

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. NADO Executive Committee Meeting

3:30 – 5:30 p.m. NADO Board of Directors Meeting
   All NADO members are welcome to attend.

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Opening Reception (all attendees)

6:30 – 8:00 p.m. DDAA Dinner Banquet
   The DDAA Dinner Banquet will include the presentation of the 2019 John D. Whisman Vision Award and the 2019 Donald R. Myers Humanitarian Award, as well as the announcement of the 2019 DDAA Congressional Award Recipient.

Monday, March 18, 2019

NOTE: The concurrent sessions on Monday are open to all attendees.

NADO or DDAA “focus track” designations are specified based on session topics’ relevance to each organization’s respective members, but all are welcome to attend.

7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Registration

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. DDAA Breakfast and Annual Business Meeting
   The DDAA Annual Business Meeting will include the election of DDAA board members and officers.

9:15 – 10:30 a.m. Opening Plenary Session (all attendees)
   The Impacts of Substance Abuse Disorder on Labor Force Participation
   Rural communities are often on the frontlines of the substance abuse disorder and opioid misuse epidemic. As companies struggle to find enough qualified workers to fill available jobs, individuals remain absent from the labor force as they contend with the effects of substance abuse disorder and strive to achieve recovery. Helping workers re-enter the labor force is crucial – not only for the sake of these individuals’ recovery – but
also to boost productivity and support economic growth in heavily impacted communities. During this plenary session, a panel of experts will discuss the extent of this problem, and its impact on regional development and economic competitiveness.

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions (all attendees)

**DDAA Focus Track**
**Supporting Rural Broadband**

Broadband speed and connectivity are among the primary infrastructure challenges at the top of many communities’ agendas. The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development, and several states across the country are implementing initiatives devoted to enhancing broadband connectivity. Learn more about the challenges that communities face, and how federal, state, and regional partners are responding in order to provide high-speed access to businesses and individuals.

**NADO Focus Track**
**Lifting Up Communities through Economic Diversification**

Communities across the country are seeking opportunities to diversify and strengthen their economies through a variety of place-based efforts that tap into local and regional assets. During this session, regional leaders will discuss the diversification efforts they are championing, and federal partners will weigh in on how to fund and implement these projects to improve overall quality of life for local residents.

12:15 – 1:30 p.m. Luncheon (all attendees)

**The Pulse of DC: A Reporter’s Take on the Latest News in Washington**

A reporter for Roll Call provides her perspective on recent events, including: the latest developments on Capitol Hill; what priorities the Administration will emphasize in the coming months; which legislative proposals and policy issues may gain traction during the remaining days of the 116th Congress; and other key insights from “inside the beltway.”
1:45 – 3:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions (all attendees)

**DDAA Focus Track**

**Responses to the Substance Abuse Epidemic: Promising Practices**

The substance abuse disorder and opioid misuse epidemic is affecting rural communities across the United States and particularly in Appalachia. This session will include presentations on regional and local responses to these challenges, and subsequent workforce and social impacts.

**NADO Focus Track**

**Looking Ahead: Opportunities on the Horizon in 2019 and Beyond**

During this session, a panel of DC insiders will discuss economic and community development opportunities to look out for in 2019. Topics will include the nation’s infrastructure needs and how the White House and Congress intend to address them; how communities can take advantage of federal resources such as the Opportunity Zones program; analysis of how various legislative developments are likely to play out on Capitol Hill; and discussion of top priorities for the Administration in the coming months.

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. NADO Regional Caucus Meetings

4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Federal Stakeholders Networking Event

Meet with federal agency representatives and stakeholders to learn about funding opportunities and ask questions.

**Tuesday, March 19, 2019**

7:00 – 8:30 a.m. DDAA Breakfast

Join us for a legislative briefing focused on the Appalachian Regional Commission and its federal partners. What was the impact of the government shutdown on ARC’s partners and its investments? With a new Congress in place, what developments do we foresee in 2019 and 2020?

8:00 – 10:00 a.m. Registration
8:45 – 9:45 a.m. Plenary Session (all attendees)

The Federal Economic Development Agenda in 2019
The 2018 midterm elections changed the partisan balance in Washington. How will economic and community development budgets, programs, and priorities be impacted? During this session, a DC insider will break down the election results, the federal budget process, and the impacts of other recent current events. This session will also place an emphasis on key messages to deliver during your Hill visits.

NOTE: Executive Directors and senior staff are encouraged to attend the NADO Hill Visits.

Concurrent sessions on Tuesday are intended to be technical sessions designed for LDD program staff to build their knowledge and skills.

10:00 – 5:00 p.m. Hill Visits (NADO focus track – all attendees welcome to participate)

10:00 – 11:15 a.m. DDAA Concurrent Technical and Program Sessions

DDAA Focus Track
Developing a Multi-County Workforce Partnership

Across the Appalachian region, there is a need for trained technical workers who can meet the workforce needs of the advanced manufacturing sector. A new regional job training program in Ohio offered through the Ohio Governor’s Office of Appalachia provides case studies and lessons for other local development districts (LDDs) seeking to address similar challenges.

DDAA Focus Track
Agricultural Innovation in Appalachia:
Value Chains to Grow Entrepreneurs and Economies

In 2016, the Central Appalachian Food Corridor tapped POWER funds to catalyze economic opportunities in the food and agriculture sector in economically distressed communities. Building upon years of foundational work by Appalachian Sustainable Development (ASD), the project collaborates with partners to create sustainable jobs in
local food production and distribution in five states. Learn more about this effort and how your region can benefit from the lessons learned from the Corridor partnership.

11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch on your own

1:45 – 3:00 p.m. DDAA Concurrent Sessions

**DDAA Focus Track**

**Oh The Places You'll Go...Regional Career Exploration Experiences**

Strong partnerships between businesses, K-12 and post-secondary educational institutions, and other public and private sector partners helped create this interactive event that connects students with workforce development opportunities. During this session, members of the CareerQuest TN and CareerQuest’s All About Business core teams share why this event matters, how they made it happen, and how students have benefitted. During this session, learn how the event came together, the planning and budget required, and the lessons shared by vendors, teachers, and students who have participated in the event.

**DDAA Focus Track**

**Entrepreneurial Ecosystems: What's Going On?**

There are many factors and interconnections that can influence the prosperity of entrepreneurs, who play crucial roles in creating economic opportunity in many rural communities. The Appalachian Regional Commission recently commissioned research on what makes a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem, which organizations are engaged in entrepreneurship, and how to measure success. Learn about new data that will shed light on how dynamic your regional economy is, and hear what communities are doing both to help grow more new companies, and to help small companies scale up.

4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Hill Reception (all attendees)

**Wednesday, March 20, 2019**

8:00 – 11:00 a.m. Registration

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Breakfast and Plenary Session (all attendees)
The Future of Rural Economies: Opportunities for Innovation
What should Congress do to help rural America? How can communities build sector strategies and partnerships between employers and educational institutions? What are the most important roles that local leaders can play in strengthening and diversifying regional economies? Hear from leading experts on how rural communities can harness opportunities for innovation.

9:45 – 11:00 a.m. Closing Plenary Session (all attendees)

Federal Agency Panel
Join representatives from various federal agencies in DC who administer the programs that your organizations implement. Learn about new programs and initiatives, shifting federal priorities, and ask questions during this interactive discussion.

12:00 – 5:00 p.m. Post-conference Training
An Afternoon with the CEDS
Note: additional registration required; please register here: https://tinyurl.com/yc4vnh82

During this half-day, free interactive training event immediately following the Washington Conference, participants will have the opportunity to: learn best practices and approaches to Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) planning, development, and implementation; hear from EDA staff about the latest news and funding opportunities and share feedback based on your experiences with the CEDS; discover approaches to infuse economic resilience and diversification strategies into your CEDS; and problem-solve your CEDS challenges with peers. This workshop is part of the NADO Research Foundation’s Stronger CEDS, Stronger Regions program, which is supported by grant funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration.