



### **Presentations - Monday, March 14, 2022**

#### **Raising Your Voice: The Importance of Connecting and Aligning for Impact**

##### **Presentation**

- Tom Johnson, Executive in Residence, Ohio University; Mayor of Somerset, Ohio
- Steve Patterson, Mayor of Athens, Ohio; President of the Mayors' Partnership for Progress;
- Kevin Ritter, Commissioner, Washington County, Ohio
- Flite Freimann, Director, Washington County Department of Job and Family Services
- John Hemmings, Executive Director, Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission; President, Ohio Rural Development Alliance
- Amista Lipot, Director, External Relations and Strategic Partnerships, Ohio University; Executive Director, Mayors' Partnership for Progress

#### **Reaching Universal Broadband: Taking a Community Approach**

##### **Presentation**

- Tammy Breski, Program Manager, Virginia Telecommunication Initiative, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
- Kevin Byrd, Executive Director, New River Valley Regional Commission
- Carl Caudill, Director of IT, Grayson County
- Chandler Vaughan, Broadband Policy Analyst, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
- Tamarah Holmes, Virginia ARC Program Manager; Director, Office of Broadband, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

#### **Strengthening Regions Through Equity and Economic Inclusion Strategies**

##### **Presentation 1 – Erica Anderson**

##### **Presentation 2 - Martha Heeter**

##### **Presentation 3 - Amanda Straight**

- Erica Anderson, Director of Economic and Community Development, Land of Sky Regional

## Council

- Jessica L. González Martínez, Inclusive Economic Development Advisor, New Growth Innovation Network
- Martha Heeter, Executive Director, Plan RVA
- Amanda Straight, Inclusive Economic Development Advisor, New Growth Innovation Network
- Bernadette Grafton, Program Analyst and University Center Coordinator, U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration
- Ciara Ristig, Senior Program Manager, NADO Research Foundation

## **An Overview of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**

### [Presentation](#)

- Hal Hiemstra, Partner, Summit Strategies

## **The Political Landscape in 2022**

### [Presentation](#)

- Nathan Gonzales, Editor and Publisher, Inside Elections with Nathan L. Gonzales; Elections Analyst for Roll Call

## **Alternative Workforce Development**

### [Presentation 1](#)

### [Presentation 2](#)

- Whitney Williams, Director, Georgia Mountains Regional Commission
- Bob Murphy, Executive Director, Broome Tioga Workforce Investment Board
- Marty Romitti, Senior Vice President, Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness

## **ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund: Eligible Uses and Compliance**

### [Presentation](#)

- Eryn Hurley, Deputy Director of Government Affairs, National Association of Counties

## **Presentations - Tuesday, March 15, 2022**

### **Heading to the Hill: Navigating a New Landscape for Conducting Federal Advocacy**

Presentation – Brad Fitch-by request

### [Presentation – Michael Higdon](#)

- Brad Fitch, President and CEO, Congressional Management Foundation
- Michael Higdon, Principal, A1.9 Strategies

### **Charting a Broadband Roadmap**

### [Presentation](#)

- Tom Johnson, Mayor, Village of Somerset
- Megan Kvamme, Executive Chairwoman, Ohio Transparent Telecom

- Matt Armstead, Chief Growth Officer, Ohio Transparent Telecom
- Meagan Bolton, Of Counsel, IceMiller
- Ryan Collins, Broadband Coordinator, Buckeye Hills Regional Council

### **Investing in Rural Prosperity: A Vision for the Future of Rural Development**

[Presentation 1 – Andrew Dumont](#)

[Presentation 2 – Kevin Byrd](#)

[Presentation 3 – Tony Pipa](#)

- Kevin Byrd, Executive Director, New River Valley Regional Commission
- Tony Pipa, Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution
- Andrew Dumont, Senior Community Development Analyst, Federal Reserve Board

### **Supporting Rural Entrepreneurship through Collaboration**

[Presentation](#)

- Mary-Marshall VanSant, Director, Center for Learning & Professional Development, University of North Alabama
- Tina Metzger, Co-Founder, RuralRISE
- Erik Pages, President, EntreWorks Consulting

### **Collaborating with USDA Partners**

[Presentation](#)

- Farah Ahmad, Chief of Staff for Rural Development, USDA Rural Development
- Claudette Fernandez, Director of Program Equity and Opportunity Strategy, USDA
- Jacki Ponti Lazarek

### **Addressing Infrastructure Dependencies in Hazard Mitigation Plans**

[Presentation](#)

- Sandra Lee Pinel, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security
- Addison Coley, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security

### **Creative Community Revitalization**

[Presentation](#)

- Joyce Barrett, Executive Director, Heritage Ohio
- Kristi Tanner, Senior Managing Director, JobsOhio
- Tom Johnson, Mayor, Somerset, Ohio
- Kathy Zook, ARC Program Manager, Eastgate Regional Council of Governments

### **Fostering Partnerships Between States and Economic Development Districts**

**Speakers**

### [Presentation](#)

- Mereb Hagos, Program Manager, Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness
- Raymond Mondragon, Governmental Specialist, Eastern Plains Council of Governments
- Ryan Smith, EDA Data Evolution Lead, Policy Advisor for the Office of Regional Affairs, U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration

Moderator:

- Brett Schwartz, Associate Director, NADO Research Foundation

### **Investing in a Rural Talent Strategy**

#### [Presentation](#)

- Deborah Kobes, Senior Director, Jobs for the Future