

# 2019 ARKANSAS RURAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE AGENDA



## TUESDAY, MAY 14TH

- 9:00 a.m.** ..... Exhibitor Set-up
- 11:00 a.m.** ..... Conference Registration  
Convention Center Lobby
- 1:00 p.m.** ..... Welcoming Session  
Eric Jackson, Oaklawn
- 2:00 p.m.** ..... Legislative Committee Meeting
- 2:30 p.m.** ..... Concurrent Sessions  
Session 1: Minority & Women-Owned  
Business 101  
Session 2: Rural Arkansas Success Stories
- 4:00 p.m.** ..... Hospitality Suite Opens
- 6:00 p.m.** ..... Dinner, Oaklawn Jockey Club

## CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The objective of the annual event is to provide participants with the opportunity to gain a working knowledge about a variety of programs and services that are available to assist communities and their leaders with development, planning and revitalization efforts. The Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) Division of Rural Services and the Arkansas Rural Development Commission are committed to providing the most up-to-date information in a relaxed environment conducive to learning and sharing. The goal of this annual event is to provide participants with the information and resources to help their communities.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The Arkansas Rural Development Conference is designed for anyone interested in improving the quality of life in Arkansas' rural communities. Its target audience includes state legislators, mayors, county judges, rural firefighters, local community leaders, and community development professionals who are interested in the future development of our state. Arkansans who are genuinely interested in attaining a better quality of life and who are willing to work for change are strongly encouraged to attend.

## CONFERENCE FEE INFORMATION

Attendees who register before April 15th can take advantage of the early-bird rate of \$125 per attendee. For those who register after April 15th, conference fees are \$150 per attendee. Exhibit space is \$400 and provides two complimentary registrations (any additional person pay regular registration). Registration fees cover all conference materials as well as entertainment activities, receptions, breaks and meals. Cancellations will be subject to a 50% charge. Registration is also available online at [ArkansasEDC.com/Rural-Services](http://ArkansasEDC.com/Rural-Services).

Please make checks payable to:  
**Arkansas Economic Development Commission**  
Attn: Rural Services  
900 W Capitol Ave, Suite 400  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
[RuralServices@ArkansasEDC.com](mailto:RuralServices@ArkansasEDC.com)

## HOTEL INFORMATION

Hotel accommodations start at \$105 per night and are not included in the above fee. Arrangements must be made directly with the Hot Springs Embassy Suites as soon as possible by calling 1-501-624-9200. Discounted room rates expire on May 3rd.

**Remember to tell them you are with the  
Arkansas Economic Development Commission  
to receive the special block rate.**

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 15TH

- 8:30 a.m.** ..... Conference Registration/Exhibit Break
- 9:30 a.m.** ..... Concurrent Sessions  
Session 3: The War for Talent in 2019  
Session 4: Opportunity Zones in Arkansas
- 10:00 a.m.** ..... Legislative Committee Meeting
- 11:00 a.m.** ..... Exhibit Break
- 11:30 a.m.** ..... Arkansas Rural Development Commission Luncheon  
Keynote: Hunter Yurachek  
Athletic Director, Arkansas Razorback Athletics
- 1:00 p.m.** ..... Exhibit Break
- 2:00 p.m.** ..... Session 5: Political Roundtable  
Moderated by Roby Brock, Talk Business & Politics
- 4:00 p.m.** ..... Hospitality Suite Opens  
**Dinner on your own**
- 8:00 p.m.** ..... Karaoke & Dancing

## THURSDAY, MAY 16TH

- 8:30 a.m.** ..... Conference Registration/Exhibit Break
- 9:30 a.m.** ..... Concurrent Sessions  
Session 6: Highway Funding in Arkansas  
Session 7: Challenges Facing Rural  
Hospitals & Communities
- 10:00 a.m.** ..... Legislative Committee Meeting
- 11:15 a.m.** ..... Exhibit Break
- 11:30 a.m.** ..... Governor's Luncheon & Awards Ceremony  
Keynote: Governor Asa Hutchinson  
State of Arkansas

