

2023 ARKANSAS RURAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

AGENDA



Map of the venue is
located on page 3

TUESDAY - MAY 23RD

9:00 AM

Exhibitor Set-up

Location: Pre-Function Area/Ballroom C

11:00 AM

Conference Registration

Location: Pre-Function Area/Registration Desk

1:00 PM

Welcoming Session

Location: Ballroom B

Welcoming Prayer: ARDC Commissioner James Myatt

Presenter: Mike Rogers, Chief Workforce Officer

1:45 PM

Exhibit Break

Location: Pre-Function Area/Ballroom C

2:00 PM

Legislative Committee Meeting

Location: Ballroom A

Joint Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Economic Development

3:00 PM

Session 1 - Broadband in Arkansas: The State of Play

Location: Ballroom B

ARDC Commissioner and Moderator: Lynn Hawkins

Panelists: Glen Howie, Arkansas Department of Commerce

Judge Jimmy Cummings, Cleveland County

Kennieth Goodwin, Founder and CEO, Arrowhead Broadband and Construction

Doug Maglothin, Diamond State Networks

Heath Simpson, President and COO of Ritter Communications

Mayor Stephanie White, City of Keo

4:00 PM

Hospitality Suite

Location: Board Room

5:00 PM

Tour of Oaklawn Track and Casino (Optional)

Meet: Pre-Function Area

6:30 PM

Dinner

Location: Ballroom B

8:00 PM

Hospitality Suite

Location: Board Room

WEDNESDAY - MAY 24TH

8:00 AM

Conference Registration/Exhibit Break

Location: Pre-Function Area/Ballroom C

9:00 AM

Legislative Committee Meeting

Location: Ballroom A

Joint Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs

10:00 AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session 2 - Outdoor Recreation Grants and Resources for Rural Communities

Location: Ouachita and Hamilton

ARDC Commissioner: Elizabeth Walker

Speaker and Moderator: Matt McNair, Director, Outdoor Recreation Grants Program

Panelists: Tabbi Kinion, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

John Pennington, University of Arkansas
Department of Agriculture

Debby Dickson, Arkansas Department of Agriculture
Shelly Smith, H2Ozarks

Session 3 - Taking Care of Business: Success Stories with AEDC's Division of Business Development

Location: Catherine and DeGray

ARDC Commissioner: John "Butch" Prunty

Speaker and Moderator: Jarod Wickliffe, Senior Project Manager, AEDC

Panelists: Judge Robert McAdoo, Ouachita County

Mayor Gary Baxter, City of Mulberry

Shelley Short, President and CEO, Arkadelphia Regional
Economic Development Alliance, and Area Chamber of
Commerce

11:00 AM

Exhibit Break

Location: Pre-Function Area/Ballroom C

11:30 AM

Arkansas Rural Development Commission Luncheon

Location: Ballrooms A & B

Keynote Speaker: Secretary Joseph Wood, Arkansas Department of Transformation and Shared Services
Presentation of the Rural Advocate of the Year

1:00 PM

Exhibit Break

Location: Pre-Function Area/Ballroom C

2:00 PM

Session 4: Political Roundtable

Location: Ballroom B

ARDC Commissioner: Robert Moery

Moderator: Roby Brock, Talk Business & Politics

Panelists: Speaker Matthew J. Shepherd

Senator Ronald Caldwell

Senator Ben Gilmore

Senator Steve Crowell

Representative Howard Beaty

Representative Jack Fortner

Representative Jeremiah Moore

Representative Kendra Moore

Representative DeAnn Vaught

4:00 PM

Hospitality Suite

Location: Board Room

Dinner on your own

8:00 PM

Karaoke & Dancing

Location: Pop's Lounge, Oaklawn Casino

THURSDAY - MAY 25TH

8:00 AM

Conference Registration/Exhibit Break

Location: Pre-Function Area/Ballroom C

9:00 AM

Session 5: Tech-Based Economic Development: How Innovation and Collaboration Foster Sustainable Economic Growth

Location: Ouachita and Hamilton

ARDC Commissioner: Elizabeth Walker

Speaker: Jennifer Fowler, Program Director, Arkansas NSF EPSCoR, AEDC

10:00 AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session 6: Building a Vibrant Community: Strategies for Engaging Individuals, Associations, and Institutions for Collective Action

Location: Ouachita and Hamilton

ARDC Commissioner: Allison Mears

Speaker: Hunter P. Goodman, Ph.D., U of A System,
Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service

Session 7: Building the Talent Pipeline in Rural Arkansas

Location: Catherine and DeGray

ARDC Commissioner: Larry Bailey

Speaker and Moderator: Cody Waits, Director, Office of Skills
Development

Panelists: Rodney Elis - Don Tyson School of Innovation
Aaron Hale - Fidus Global
Kenneth Calhoun - Altec Industries

11:00 AM

Exhibit Break

Location: Pre-Function Area/Ballroom C

11:30 AM

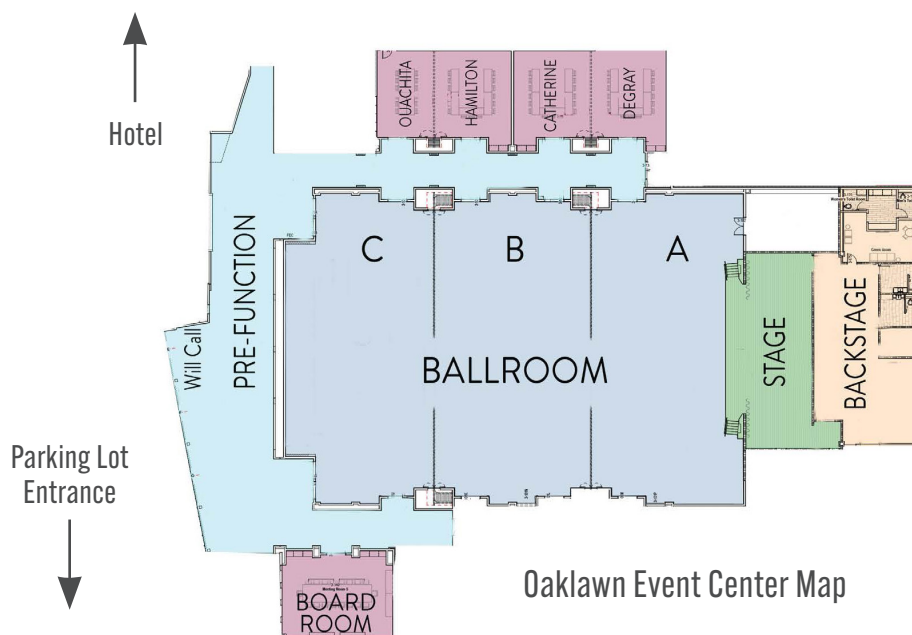
Rural Services Awards Ceremony and Luncheon

Location: Ballrooms A & B

Video: Governor Sarah Sanders

Speaker: Clint O'Neal, Executive Director, AEDC

Presentation of Rural Services Grant Award Recipients



Oaklawn Event Center Map