Conference Highlights

The 31st Annual Rural Community Economic Development Conference begins on Tuesday evening (February 25) at 7:00 pm with an opportunity to enjoy light refreshments with presenters and IIRA staff. On Wednesday the morning plenary session features speakers who will discuss creative strategies for the future of rural Illinois. Breakout sessions on Wednesday afternoon will highlight successful community revitalization strategies and innovative practices applicable to rural areas. Each session will be repeated to provide participants an opportunity to attend four sessions. On Thursday morning the conference continues with Workshops on community and economic development techniques. Register by February 16 to receive the Early Bird Rate and guarantee your spot. We look forward to seeing you in Springfield on February 26 and 27. Updates at www.iira.org

Registration

Early Bird Rate
Early Bird Rate: $175.00 per person for registrations postmarked by February 16, 2020. The registration rate after February 16 and for registrations at the door is $200.00 per person. The registration fee includes networking opportunities Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, lunch on Wednesday, a continental breakfast on Thursday, and breaks on both days. Register online at http://www.iira.org/conferencetraining/ or use the enclosed registration form.

Location
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, 701 E. Adams, Springfield, Illinois, 62701; (217) 544-8800. If making reservations online, please use code “IIR”.

Lodging
Rooms at reduced rates have been set aside for conference participants at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield, IL. Rates per night are $85.00 (single) and $100 (double). Room reservations are subject to availability; to receive this rate reservations must be made by February 04, 2020. For reservations call (217) 544-8800. Be sure to ask for the Rural Community Economic Development Conference rate.

Parking
The Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs will provide a free parking pass for those staying at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel. *Must park in the self-parking garage adjoined to the hotel.

Questions?
Call Sandy Wittig at (309) 298-2637, or send an e-mail to SK-Wittig@wiu.edu.

The announcement and program are available on our website: www.IIRA.org
I am pleased to invite you to the 31st Annual Rural Community Economic Development Conference held February 26 and 27, 2020, in Springfield, Illinois. The 2020 conference will highlight current efforts to increase the full potential of rural Illinois. Speakers will explore the benefits of creating sustainable places designed to improve the quality of life for rural residents. Sessions this year will include developing age-friendly communities, broadband opportunities, digital inclusion, and engaging youth, while also identifying existing assets in rural regions. Strategies to adjust to changing demographics and to develop the industry will be discussed. A pre-conference mixer event on Tuesday evening provides those arriving prior to the conference an opportunity to meet the speakers in an informal setting. Please plan to join us from 7 to 9 pm in the Lincoln Room to enjoy a relaxed atmosphere, network and share your ideas with like-minded individuals. We look forward to seeing you in Springfield.

Christopher D. Merrett
Director, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs

Register online at www.iira.org or return the form below by mail or fax. Register by February 16th to qualify for the Early Bird Rate! When 3 register from your organization or community, a 4th attends FREE!

Name (please fill out name the way you want it to appear on your nametag):

Last Name ___________________________________________ First Name___________________________________________

Job Title __________________________ E-Mail __________________________

Organization/Business/Affiliation __________________________________________________________________________

Address _________________________________________________________________________________________________

City __________ State ______ Zip ______ Phone __________

Conference Fee: ☐ Postmarked by 2/16/20 = $175.00 ☐ Postmarked 2/17/20 or later = $200.00

Payment Method: ☐ Check ___ ☐ Invoice ___

Return this form and your check to
Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs
Stipes Hall 518
Western Illinois University
1 University Circle
Macomb, IL 61455-1390
Fax: (309) 298-2142
WIU FEIN Number: 37-0910458

Checks should be made payable to the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs.
To register four people and receive the fourth person free, register online at www.iira.org, or call (309) 298-2637.

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