



**Governor's Summit on Rural Prosperity
Inn at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA
September 23 – September 24, 2019**

DAY 1: September 23, 2019

11:00am

Registration Begins

12- 1pm

Lunch & Welcome

Keynote Speaker: Governor Ralph Northam

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Small Business & Entrepreneurship Panel

Moderator: The Honorable Danny Marshall, Virginia House of Delegates

Panelists:

- Nicole Riley, Virginia State Director, National Federation of Independent Business
- Jody Keenan, Virginia State Director, Small Business Development Center
- Ron Norris, CEO & President, Norris Built, Norton VA
- Barry Ryan, Vice President, North Carolina Rural Center

2:00-2:30

Break/Visit Exhibits

2:30- 3:30

Agricultural Partnerships Panel

Moderator: The Honorable Bettina Ring, Virginia Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry

Panelists:

- Dr Alan Grant, Dean, VT College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
- Moir Beamer, CEO of Virginia Produce Company & GO VA Region 1 Member
- Whitney Bonham, Deputy County Administrator & Economic Development Director, Washington County
- The Honorable Ben Chafin, Virginia Senate

3:30- 4:00pm

Depart & Travel to nearby Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena

4:00pm – 5:30pm

Live demonstration at livestock arena to highlight innovative agricultural practices

6:00- 7:30pm

Evening Reception at the Inn

Speakers:

- Cyril Clarke, Executive Vice President & Provost, Virginia Tech
- The Honorable Brian Ball, Virginia Secretary of Commerce and Trade

Day 2- Tuesday, September 24, 2019

8:00am – 9:00am

Breakfast & Welcome

Speaker:

*Dr. Brian O. Hemphill
President, Radford University*

9:00am – 10:00am

Effective Broadband Partnerships Panel

Moderator: Courtney Dozier, Chief Broadband Advisor & Chief Deputy, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

Panelists:

- Evan Feinman, Governor's Chief Broadband Advisor & Executive Director, Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission
- Ray LaMura, President, Virginia Cable Telecommunications Association
- Andrew Vehorn, Director of Legislative Affairs, Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives
- Tamarah Holmes, State Program Manager, Appalachian Regional Commission
- Eric Workman, County Administrator, Bland County

10:00am – 10:30am

Break/ Visit Exhibits

10:30- 11:30am

Breakout sessions begin in various rooms

Breakout Session #1

Rural Virginia Initiative

Discussion will be led by John Provo, Director, Office of Economic Development, Outreach and International Affairs, Virginia Tech

Breakout Session #2

Commonwealth Connect Broadband Coalition

Discussion will be led by Governor's Chief Broadband Advisor, Evan Feinman.

Breakout Session #3

Community Revitalization

Moderator: The Honorable Chris Hurst, Virginia House of Delegates

Panelists:

- Erik Johnston, Agency Director, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
- Peter D'Alema, Director of Program Management Virginia Resources Authority
- Shawn Utt, Town Manager, Town of Pulaski
- Cora Gnegy, Tourism Marketing Director, Giles County

11:30am – 12pm

Break/Visit Exhibits

12pm – 1:00

Lunch & Wrap Up

Speaker: Stephen Moret, CEO & President of VEDP