

# Emerging Issues and Opportunities in Rural Development

By

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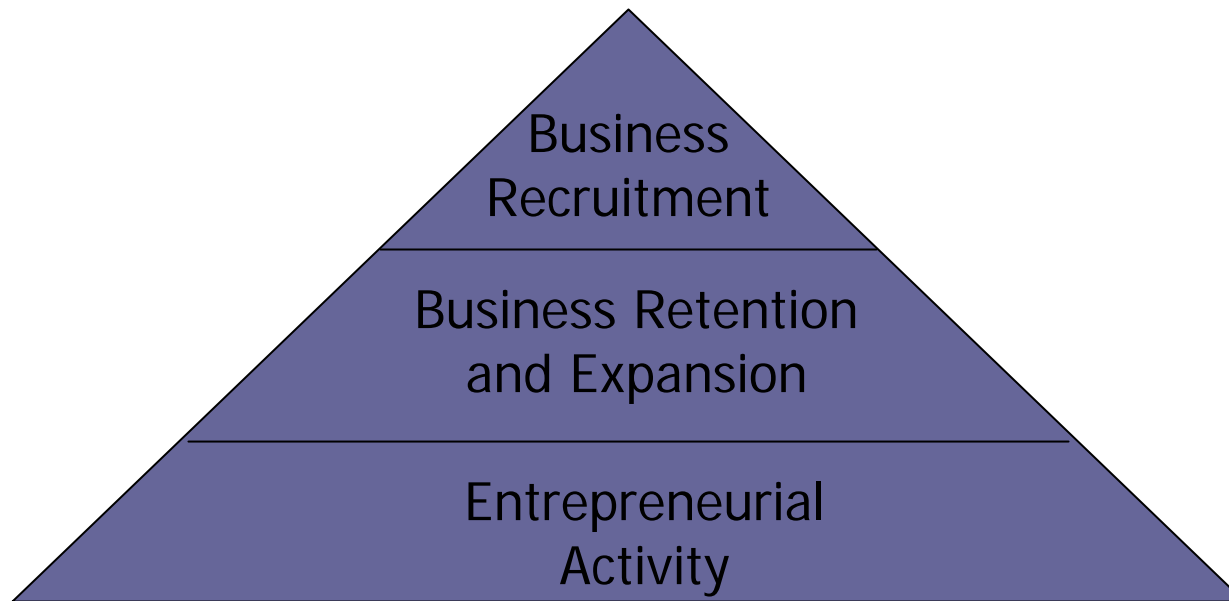
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# Rural Communities are facing many issues that stress their current capacity.

- De-population and aging of population in many geographically isolated places.
- Rapid growth in areas with amenities.
- Rapid shift from resource extraction economies to those of amenity driven development, service sectors and IT businesses.

# Successful Strategies in Rural Development



-Brian Dabson, RUPRI

- Community Based Entrepreneurism
  
- EDGE (Enhancing Growing and Developing Entrepreneurs)
  - <http://nebraskaedge.unl.edu>

- Amenity Driven Rural Development
  - Leavenworth, WA
  
- Cultural/heritage development
  - Kentucky Highlands Project
  
- Regional clusters - aggregating small independent businesses to compete for larger contracts.
  - All about Caring In-Home Services, Nebraska
  
- Business retention and expansion
  - Uncle Neal's Convenience Stores- Now Six
  
- Niche markets both agricultural and non-agricultural
  - Grass Fed Beef Cooperative –Burgerville Supplier

# Opportunities Related to Financing Institutions

- A local capital access system. A system that would optimize available strategies (e.g. LB 840, CDBG, RLF's, angel investors etc.) to create a continuum of capital access.
- Support communities connecting to outside resources. With the cut backs in SBA many rural bankers have pulled out of the program. Communities can work with local lenders to become SBA lenders.
- Participate in coalitions to support entrepreneurial training and support.
- Linking like minded businesses and entrepreneurs to form regional clusters.
- Sharing ideas of how to loan to new IT businesses.
- Cultivate entrepreneurial culture within local and regional level.

- Link tightly to local and regional universities - technology transfer for new innovations and new business start ups.
- Develop and support a culture of entrepreneurial behavior.



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