

# RuralCONNECTIONSMONTHLY

A newsletter of the Western Rural Development Center

## Western Rural Development Center Hosts Inaugural Rural Workforce Development Program Team Meeting

**The Western Rural Development Center has launched a program to analyze, identify, and develop rural workforce development research and outreach in the western U.S.**

The Western Rural Development Center, in collaboration with the Western Extension Directors Association, has assembled a team of western researchers and Extension faculty to address rural workforce development issues in the western U.S. Of particular concern and interest is workforce development among veteran farmers. The program team met this week for their inaugural meeting at the WRDC offices on the Utah State University campus in Logan, Utah.

The Rural Workforce Development Program brings together a team of those in the western region already working on these issues to analyze data of existing programs and unmet needs, identify what may be needed to better address these needs, and then develop a plan to conduct additional research and/or develop replicable outreach programs. The program team hopes to identify cross-over potential with the Western Governors' Association Workforce Development Initiative and the USDA-wide effort to support veteran farmers.

[Learn more.](#)



## CALL FOR PAPERS

## Rural Sociological Society is Accepting Submissions for the 2018 Annual Conference

The theme for this year's meeting is, "Science in Society, Society in Science: Toward a 21st Century Model for Social Scientific Research." While the meeting will include presentations and speakers on many different topics, a number of events will focus on the tension between skepticism about science and expert knowledge and a desire to ground social policy in evidence about the critical social and environmental issues of our time. The RSS meetings have traditionally been a vibrant forum for scholars from many different disciplines (not just sociology) who share an interest in rural people, places, and issues. Because of our location in Portland, we are planning several sessions to explore what is distinctive about being 'rural' in the American West. SUBMISSION DEADLINE is February 15, 2018.

[Learn more.](#)



## CALL FOR PAPERS

# Advances in the Economic Analysis of Food System Drivers and Effects

**A NAREA Pre-Conference Research Workshop Co-Sponsored by the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development**

This NAREA pre-conference workshop will highlight recent advances in the economic analysis of food systems in the U.S. as well as globally. We seek papers that address individual impacts and causes as well as papers that examine system-wide interactions within the food system, including production, distribution, and consumption linkages. ABSTRACT DEADLINE is February 16, 2018.

[Learn more.](#)



## USDA Website Offers Veterans Resources and Opportunities in Ag and Rural America

**"USDA's veterans' website serves as a one-stop navigator for veterans looking to learn more about employment, education, and entrepreneurship on or beyond the farm."**



The U.S. Department of Agriculture has introduced a new website dedicated to resources for veterans seeking opportunities in agriculture and rural America. The website features USDA-led AgLearn curriculum providing information for employees in veteran-related opportunities. Education, employment, and entrepreneurship are highlighted through programs across 16 agencies.

[Learn more.](#)

## CALL FOR COMMUNITIES

# Community Builders is Now Accepting Applications for Community Assistance

**Available to Communities in Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Montana, and Wyoming**

The work of community building can be challenging. Community Builders Assistance projects provide communities with the tools and resources to spark meaningful on-the-ground progress, while building local capacity and creating success stories. We provide a range of services, including planning and design assistance, economic and market analysis, and community engagement. Each assistance project is taken on in close partnership with the selected community and tailored to meet specific local needs. DEADLINE to apply is February 23, 2018.

[Learn more.](#)

## OPPORTUNITIES

### POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Community Economic Development  
The Ford Family Foundation  
Roseburg, OR  
[Details.](#)

### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Rural Sociological Society  
DEADLINE: February 15, 2018  
[Details.](#)



Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

DEADLINE: February 16, 2018

[Details.](#)

#### **WEBINARS**

Rural Information Center-Resources for Rural Communities

January 31, 2018

[Details.](#)

Successful Disaster Recovery Using the Community Capitals Framework

February 1, 2018

[Details.](#)

#### **CONFERENCES**

New Partners for Smart Growth Conference

February 1-3, 2018

[Details.](#)

National Land Grant Diversity Conference

February 15-16, 2018

[Details.](#)

New Mexico Organic Farming Conference

February 16-17, 2018

[Details.](#)

[Click to view the calendar on our website for more upcoming webinars and conferences.](#)

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