

RuralCONNECTIONSMONTHLY

A newsletter of the Western Rural Development Center

CENTER NEWS DIRECTOR IS OUT AND ABOUT

The Western Rural Development Center's Director, Don Albrecht, will be heading to Phoenix later this month to present at the USDA-Rural Development Western Region Community and Economic Development Symposium. Then in August he's off to Evanston, Wyoming, to present at the Partners for Rural America Summer Conference. If you see him at one of these events, be sure to say hello.

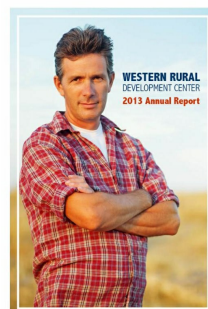


ANNUAL REPORT 2013 Western Rural Development Center

Our 2013 Annual Report is now available. Read the highlights from our activities during the past year.

We want to extend a big thanks to all of you who collaborated with us in 2013 on research, publications, planning committees, conferences, and workshops, and to those who joined us for a conference or workshop. It was a stellar year!

[Read the 2013 Annual Report.](#)



INNOVATION IS KEY TO U.S. JOB CREATION Topic of New NARDeP Policy Briefs

Human capital, not factories and infrastructure, is the best predictor of a community's economic success, and a community's share of highly educated workers plays a particularly important role in job creation, according to a new policy brief just issued by the [National Agricultural and Rural Development Policy Center](#).

"The future of American jobs is in innovation, not manufacturing," said Enrico Moretti of the University of California, Berkeley, and author of the two-page brief, "[The Future of Jobs in America](#)." "We can see this by looking at where job creation is concentrated in the U.S. In America's so-called brain hubs - cities like Seattle, Austin, or Boston - where the economy is driven by innovation, the work force is highly educated and well paid, and the labor market is strong."

Meanwhile, in sharp contrast, labor markets in many parts of the country including some rural areas are still weak or even in decline. According to the brief, one reason for this growing economic divide between communities is variation in residents' education levels.

[Read the brief.](#)
[Visit the NARDeP website.](#)



CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS

Community Development Society 2014 Conference
20-23 July 2014
Dubuque, IA
[Details.](#)

WEBINAR: Livability and the Connection Between Housing and Transportation
WRDC-NACDEP Western Region
27 August 2014
[Details.](#)

Equity, Democracy, and the Commons: Counter-narratives for Rural Transformation
Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting
31 July - 3 August 2014
New Orleans, LA
[Details.](#)

University Economic Development Association Annual Summit 2014
28 September - 1 October 2014
Santa Fe, NM
[Details.](#)

California Naturalist State-Wide Conference
17-19 October 2014
Pacific Grove, CA
[Details.](#)

Wildfire Smoke in the Sky - What does it mean to ME?
6-8 November 2014



EXTENSION'S ROLE IN SUSTAINABILITY

In this issue of *Rural Connections* Western Extension Agents, Faculty, and Specialists examine the 100-year history of Cooperative Extension and its unique position to effect nationwide change as it pertains to sustainability outreach and education.

[Read Rural Connections.](#)



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