



Rural Education National Forum

Rural Strong: Collaborating, Innovating,
& Revitalizing for Rural Prosperity

October 27–28, 2014

Hilton Polaris
Columbus, Ohio

Hosted by:



Department
of Education

In partnership with:



Register online by August 8 to receive the early bird discount!

www.BattelleforKids.org/Go/RuralForum



Making Education Work for Rural America

Nearly a quarter of our nation's public school students attend rural schools.

Often financially challenged and separated by geography, rural school districts need opportunities to share and leverage ideas, strategies, and effective practices to accelerate college- and career-readiness for every student. Because educational attainment and economic development outcomes are closely linked, it is important for rural Americans to see the value of advanced education beyond high school, and the role it plays in creating jobs and improving local communities.

The Rural Education National Forum is a unique opportunity to advance conversations around rural education and prosperity through collaborative action.

The Forum is Designed to:

- Contribute to the growing momentum from the 2013 Forum and encourage participation in the emerging voice for rural education;
- Build opportunities for collaboration/networking to leverage rural strengths to improve rural prosperity;
- Learn from powerful national examples of successful rural innovation; and
- Focus on ways to connect learning, living, and livelihood for the revitalization of rural communities.

Who Should Attend?

- Rural district, building, and teacher leaders
- Business, civic, and community leaders
- State department of education leaders
- Local, state, and national boards of education leaders
- Established collaboratives/networks of education, business and/or community organizations
- Economic development leaders and venture capitalists
- Rural and non-rural education associations
- Philanthropic foundations
- Others interested in strengthening rural education, economic/workforce development, and civic/community engagement efforts
- Leaders from higher education institutes

Teams are encouraged to attend.

Featured Speakers



Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education

Arne Duncan is the ninth U.S. Secretary of Education. He has served in this post since his confirmation by the U.S. Senate on Jan. 20, 2009, following his nomination by President Barack Obama. Duncan's tenure as secretary has been marked by a number of significant accomplishments on behalf of American students and teachers. He helped to secure congressional support for President Obama's investments in education, including the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's \$100 billion to fund 325,000 teaching jobs, increases in Pell grants, reform efforts such as Race to the Top and Investing in Innovation, and interventions in low-performing schools. Under Duncan's leadership at the Department, the Race to the Top program has the incentives, guidance, and flexibility it needs to support reforms in states. During Duncan's tenure, the Department has launched a comprehensive effort to transform the teaching profession.



Homer Hickam, Author, *Rocket Boys: A Memoir* (adapted into the movie *October Sky*)

Homer Hickam's book, *Rocket Boys: A Memoir*, reached #1 on the *New York Times* best-seller list in 1999. *Rocket Boys* is based on the story of Homer's life growing up in the coal mining town of Coalwood, West Virginia building high-flying rockets. His book is studied in schools across the country and was adapted into the popular movie, *October Sky*. Homer is a legendary story-teller, a rocket scientist, Vietnam combat veteran, avid amateur paleontologist, and one of the nation's top scuba instructor's. His impressive accomplishments provide inspiration as he shares how he's lived out his childhood dreams despite hard times and obstacles.



Paul Kuhlman, National Rural Teacher of the Year

As a math and science educator for 24 years, Paul has taken his passion outside the classroom by developing a successful student science fair for the students of Avon High School in Avon, South Dakota. Paul has previously served as a consultant for the South Dakota Department of Education as well as the University of South Dakota's School of Education. Learn how Paul's innovative teaching strategies have led him to become the most recently named National Rural Teacher of the Year, sponsored by the National Rural Education Association.



Gayle Manchin, President, West Virginia State Board of Education; Past-President of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)

As an educator, Gayle has worked in Marion County Schools, served on the faculty of Fairmont State University in Developmental Education, and directed the university's first Community Service Learning Program and the AmeriCorps Promise Fellows in West Virginia. From January 2005 until November 2010, Gayle served as West Virginia's First Lady and official hostess of the Governor's Mansion. She currently serves as the President of the West Virginia State Board of Education, and is Chair of the Board for Reconnecting McDowell. On the national level, Gayle is a Past-President of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE), and board member of the Federal Improvement for Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE).



Mark Rembert, Co-founder of Energize Clinton County

Mark Rembert is a co-founder of Energize Clinton County (ECC) and the Director of the Wilmington-Clinton County Chamber of Commerce. ECC originated in response of the announced loss of nearly 9,000 jobs in his hometown following the departure of employer DHL. Since then, Mark's work has developed community-based initiatives that engage citizens in the process of economic development, promoting local ownership, and individual responsibility. ECC piloted innovative community energy efficiency programs in partnership with the University of Dayton, a successful Buy Local First campaign, and the establishment of the Clinton Community Fellows program.



Dr. James Mahoney, Executive Director, Battelle for Kids

Since 2001, Dr. Jim Mahoney has served as the Executive Director of Battelle for Kids, a national, education non-profit organization working with school district leaders and teachers to improve student achievement. He is passionate about improving educational opportunities for all students in order for them to make better lives for themselves. With more than 35 years of experience in rural education, including superintendent for 15 years, principal, teacher, coach, professor, and author, Jim speaks throughout the United States, Canada, and China.



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Schedule at a Glance

Monday, October 27

7:30–8:30 a.m.	Registration/Continental Breakfast
8:30–8:45 a.m.	Welcome/Event Announcements
8:45–10:30 a.m.	Keynote Series
10:45–11:45 p.m.	Learning Sessions with Keynote Presenters
noon–12:30 p.m.	Lunch (provided)
12:30–1:30 p.m.	Keynote and Panel Discussion: Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education
1:45–2:30 p.m.	Panel Discussion
2:45–3:45 p.m.	Learning Sessions
4–6 p.m.	Professional Collaboration & Networking

Tuesday, October 28

7:30–8:30 a.m.	Registration/Continental Breakfast
8:30–8:45 a.m.	Event Announcements
8:45–10:30 a.m.	Keynote Series
10:45–11:45 a.m.	Learning Sessions
noon–12:45 p.m.	Lunch (provided)
12:45–1:45 p.m.	Panel Discussion
1:45–2 p.m.	Closing Remarks

*Schedule subject
to change.*

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Forum Sessions

This two-day event is designed to inspire individual potential and possibilities from powerful rural schools and education leaders and practitioners that are linked to prosperous rural communities. Unlike traditional conferences where attendees come and listen to speakers and experts, this Forum is designed to encourage two-way conversations. Keynote and learning sessions will provide attendees the opportunity to hear from educational leaders and practitioners from around the country on critical rural education issues, then participate in discussions with presenters and other attendees.

Learning sessions will focus on timely, relevant topics, including:

Collaborating—Leveraging Rural Strengths to Guide Future Opportunities

Through hearing inspiring examples of successful and replicable rural innovations, attendees will be encouraged to re-examine their own situations, resources, and plans. These sessions will explore how rural districts can leverage new ideas and strategies to respond to a global reality and better prepare students for college, careers, and life.

- Collaborative networking between education, community, and business partnerships
- Creating and sustaining local/regional collaborative leadership
- Preserving culture while inspiring change

Innovating—Practical Ways to Tackle Contemporary Challenges in Rural Schools

At the heart of successful designs are creative uses of technology and connectivity, collaborative processes, and powerful rural leadership practices. These sessions will provide attendees with ideas for great design initiatives through collaborative and innovative practices that expand educator effectiveness, extend the reach of the most effective educators, strengthen principal/teacher/team leadership capacity, and support greater student ownership.

- Connecting education and economic development innovation through collaboration
- Encouraging entrepreneurship in K-12 and higher education
- Increasing student opportunities through dual enrollment and blended learning

Revitalizing—Restructuring the Foundation to Build a Thriving Rural Community

A powerful success story is a testimony of a growing and thriving rural community. The Forum will highlight examples of successful rural revitalization initiatives and how planning, adjusting, revising and delivering can alter the blueprint of rural communities, significantly increasing the probability of improved education and economic outcomes for rural communities.

- Economic and community revitalization
- Responding to economic crisis
- Creating local solutions for regional and national challenges

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Registration Fees

- 2-Day Registration: \$400, includes continental breakfast and lunch on both days
- Early Bird Rate: \$375 (register by August 8)

Payment options include credit card, check, or purchase order. Please include a note that indicates your payment is for the Rural Forum.

Make purchase orders and checks payable to:
Battelle for Kids
1160 Dublin Road, Suite 500
Columbus, OH 43215

Questions?

Battelle for Kids' Customer Support
1-866-543-7555
Support@BattelleForKids.org

Graduate Credit

Graduate credit will be available to attendees who participate in both days of the Forum. Details coming soon.

Cancellation & Refund Policy

Refunds or credits will only be offered for cancellations submitted via the registration website at least 10 days prior to the event. Cancellations received less than 10 days prior to the event will be eligible for a refund equal to 50 percent of your registration fee to cover meal and administrative costs. "No-shows" are not eligible for a refund.

Accommodations

Hilton Polaris

8700 Lyra Dr.
Columbus, OH 43240
(614) 885-1600

Event Rate: \$135/night (plus tax)
Parking is complimentary

Rate Deadline: September 26, 2014
Reservation Code: Rural Education National Forum
Reserve a Room: For hotel details, visit:
<http://www.battelleforkids.org/events/rural-education-forum/accommodations>

Limited rooms are available.



About Battelle for Kids

Battelle for Kids is a national, not-for-profit organization that provides strategic counsel and innovative solutions for today's complex educational-improvement challenges. Our mission-driven team of education, technology, communications, and business professionals specializes in creating strategies that advance the development of human capital, the implementation of strategic measures, practices for improving educator effectiveness, and communication with all stakeholders in schools. At the heart of this work is an unwavering focus on accelerating student growth.



About ODE

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) oversees the state's public education system, which includes public school districts, joint vocational school districts and charter schools. The department also monitors educational service centers, other regional education providers, early learning and childcare programs, and private schools.



About KDE

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is a service agency of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The department provides resources and guidance to Kentucky's public schools and districts as they implement the state's P-12 education requirements. The department also serves as the state liaison for federal education requirements and funding opportunities.



Join the conversation!

We will be using #RuralEdForum to share event details.