



Rural Education National Forum

Taking the Lead

Rural Innovation, Integration, Investment, and Impact

October 26–27, 2015

Hilton Polaris
Columbus, Ohio

Hosted by:

Battelle *for Kids*

In partnership with:

Ohio | Department
of Education



Register by September 18 to receive the early bird discount!

bfk.org/RuralForum



Taking the Lead: Rural Innovation, Integration, Investment, and Impact

The Rural Education National Forum was created to bring rural education leaders together to help reshape the rural economy, enrich the quality of life, own the future of learning, and prepare rural communities to be successful in a highly competitive, complex, and ever-changing world.

Battelle for Kids, the Ohio Department of Education, and the Kentucky Department of Education are pleased to partner for the third annual Rural Education National Forum, an interactive and collaborative learning experience.

The 2015 Forum is designed to provide rural leaders with powerful examples of rural investment and innovation that positively impact student growth and achievement and foster collaboration around best practices and policies for their districts, schools, and 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 community organizations
- Economic development leaders and venture capitalists
- Rural and non-rural education associations
- Philanthropic foundations
- Leaders from institutes of higher education
- Others interested in strengthening rural education, economic/workforce development, and civic/community engagement efforts

Teams are encouraged to attend.

Featured Speakers & Sessions

Monday, October 26



Dr. Jim 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.



Jessica Meacham, National Rural Teacher of the Year

Recently named National Rural Teacher of the Year, Jessica Meacham is an elementary teacher with 18 years of experience. She currently teaches first grade and co-directs district-wide technology initiatives in Door County, Wisconsin. Jessica's website has served thousands of teachers worldwide, providing them with free teaching tips, resources, lessons, and ideas. Jessica began her teaching career in inner city and suburban schools in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Twelve years ago, she moved to rural Wisconsin, where she considers it a privilege to live and teach in a rural community. Learn more about her work and insights at www.jessicameacham.com.



Pre-screening of *Raising Bertie*, a Kartemquin film

This feature-length documentary on youth in rural America, follows three young men over the course of five years as they grow into adulthood in Bertie County, a small African American-led farming community in North Carolina. Through the intimate portrayal of these young men, we see the issues facing America's rural youth and the repercussions of a woefully underfunded rural public school system. Their stories shed light on the complex relationships among family, economic development, and education. Forum participants will get to view the pre-screen copy of this film and share feedback.

Tuesday, October 27



Jeannette Walls, Author

Jeannette Walls' memoir, *The Glass Castle*, has been named one of the "Top 10 Books of the Decade" by Amazon, was a New York Times best-seller for over six years, and is being made into a movie by Paramount Pictures. Jeannette's success was built upon a childhood filled with hardship, misfortune, and poverty. Neglected, yet challenged by her parents to dream big, Jeannette tells the story of her younger years, and how she eventually left West Virginia at the age of sixteen to attend college and pursue writing. Her story of inspiration has been shared all around the world, providing hope in the midst of adversity.

State Superintendents' Panel

Join leaders from states with large rural student populations, as they share their perspectives and candid insights regarding rural education, including some of their greatest challenges and successes.

Panelists:

Moderator, Tom Oster Council of Chief State School Officers

June Atkinson North Carolina

Kirsten Baesler North Dakota

Terry Holliday Kentucky

Richard A. Ross Ohio



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Schedule at a Glance

Monday, October 26

7:30–8:30 a.m.	Registration/Continental Breakfast
8:30–8:45 a.m.	Welcome/Event Announcements
8:45–9:30 a.m.	Jim Mahoney, Executive Director, Battelle for Kids
9:30–10:30 a.m.	Jessica Meacham, National Rural Teacher of the Year
10:45–11:45 a.m.	Learning Sessions
Noon–12:45 p.m.	Lunch (provided)
12:45–1:15 p.m.	Luncheon Remarks: U.S. Department of Education
1:30–2:30 p.m.	Learning Sessions
2:45–3:45 p.m.	Featured Speaker & Audience Q&A
4–6 p.m.	Viewing of <i>Raising Bertie</i>

Tuesday, October 27

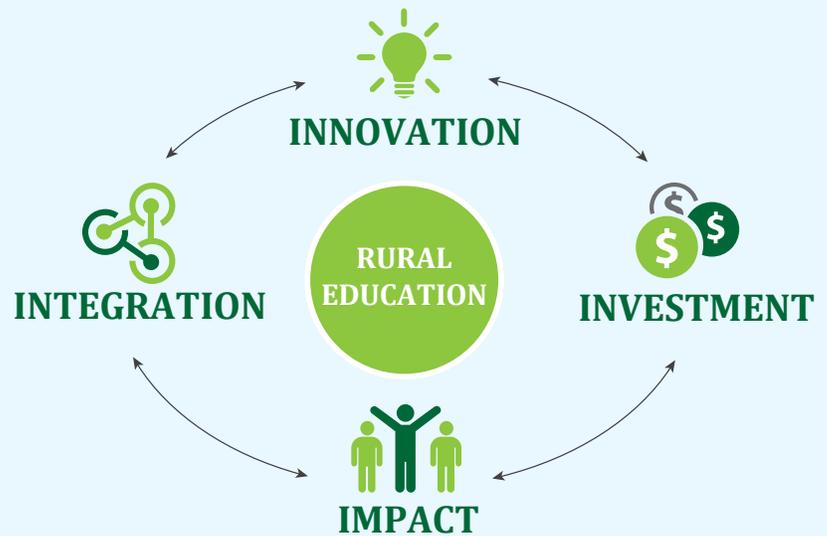
7:30–8:30 a.m.	Registration/Continental Breakfast
8:30–8:45 a.m.	Event Announcements
8:45–9:45 a.m.	Jeannette Walls, Author, <i>The Glass Castle</i>
10–11 a.m.	Learning Sessions
11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.	Learning Sessions
12:15–12:45 p.m.	Lunch (provided)
12:45–1:30 p.m.	Discussion: Where Rural Policy, Philanthropy, and Practice Meet
1:30–2:15 p.m.	State Superintendents' Panel
2:15–2:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks

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Learning Sessions

Learning sessions will be organized around four focus areas designed to inspire and ignite positive change for rural educators, students, and communities.



INNOVATION

At the heart of successful, innovative designs are creative and inspiring uses of materials, technology, leadership strategies, and best practices. Hear from rural leaders and practitioners as they share innovative ideas that will inspire and empower attendees.



INVESTMENT

Partnerships among business, philanthropy, education, government, and the community are fueling investments in rural communities like never before. Learn how the right blend of initiative, resilience, and thoughtful planning are generating signs of revitalization in rural schools and communities.



IMPACT

Real, scalable, and sustainable change comes to those who are persistent to the point that progress is observable and measurable. Learn from leaders and practitioners who will share their successes and challenges in moving the needle forward in their districts, schools, and communities.



INTEGRATION

Collaborative and integrative thinking helps rural schools and communities move away from remoteness and toward connectedness to increase student learning opportunities and success. Join presenters as they share strategies and tools they've used to increase collaboration and networking with internal and external partners.

Learning Session Topics

- Aligning Community Engagement and Local Workforce Development Efforts
- Creating Career Pathways
- Credentialing Teachers for Dual Enrollment
- Developing Leaders
- Encouraging an Entrepreneurial Mindset in Students
- Establishing K-12 and Higher Education Partnerships
- Launching Branding Campaigns to Recruit and Retain Educators
- Linking Rural Research to Policy and Practice
- Offering Experiential and Work-Based Learning Opportunities
- Personalizing Learning

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Registration Fees

- **Early Bird Rate: \$350 (register by September 18)**
- **2-Day Registration:** \$400, includes breakfasts and lunches

Pay by credit card, check, or purchase order.

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

Please indicate "Rural Forum" on your check or purchase order.

Questions?

Kara Adkins
(614) 481-3141
Kadkins@BattelleforKids.org

Graduate Credit

One and two hours of graduate credit will be available to attendees who participate in both days of the Forum. Credit will be offered through Muskingum University at \$130/semester hour. Registration will be available onsite.

Cancellation & Refund Policy

Refunds 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: \$145/night (plus tax)
Parking is complimentary

Rate Deadline: October 2, 2015
Reservation Code: Rural Education National Forum
For hotel details, visit: <http://bfk.me/RuralForumHotel>

Limited rooms are available.



About Battelle for Kids

Battelle for Kids is a national, not-for-profit organization dedicated to moving education forward for students by supporting the educators who work with them every day. Our mission-driven team of education, communications, technology, and business professionals provides innovative services, solutions, and products that empower teachers, develop leaders, and improve school systems to ensure pathways to success for every student. Learn how we move education forward at www.BattelleforKids.org.



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.