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# **2015 Rural Summit**

## **“ASPIRE Rural Maryland”**

**Thursday, December 3, 2015 in Annapolis, Maryland**

### **Call for Speakers**

The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) Conference Planning Committee is accepting speaker proposals. We are especially interested in presentations on best practices, engagement, and/or innovation in these areas:

- ☒ Agriculture
- ☒ Broadband implementation and access
- ☒ Youth Engagement
- ☒ Workforce and Economic Development
- ☒ Community Development
- ☒ Health Care
- ☒ Energy

Scheduled for Thursday, December 3, in Annapolis, Maryland, the 2015 Rural Summit will bring together an estimated 100+ professionals and grass root individuals from throughout Rural Maryland. Stakeholders include rural citizens; State and local government leaders; grass root nonprofit organizations that work in rural communities; and professionals representing health care, economic development, agriculture, forestry, workforce development, and community development. Outcomes include networking, listening, dissemination of information and resources, and the opportunity to collaboratively affect change and help guide future legislative agendas that affect rural people and communities.

#### **Section I: General Guidelines**

Presentations should reflect cutting-edge research and practical applications with a special emphasis on interactive sessions. The Rural Maryland Council Conference Planning Committee is accepting proposals for general and concurrent sessions.

1. **All proposals are due on or before July 1, 2015 by electronic submission** via the link shown in Section IV. Submit supporting documents via email as outlined in Section IV.
2. See Section II for topics and presentation requirements.

3. Speakers must have a thorough knowledge of the subject matter they are presenting and professional practice within the area(s) covered. The focus of the activity is to enhance knowledge and application of conference participants.
4. The Committee will review up to two (2) proposals per individual or group. Please do not submit more than two proposals.
5. Incomplete proposals will not be reviewed.
6. All conflicts of interest must be fully disclosed at time of proposal submission.

## **Section II: Presentation Requirements**

1. Presentation topics are outlined at the beginning of this document.
2. Presentations should be no more than 45-minutes long.
3. Identify type of presentation:
  - a. Case Study/Lessons Learned
  - b. Best Practices
  - c. Tips and Tricks
4. To be considered as a speaker, your submission must demonstrate the ability to:
  - a. Provide compelling, timely and relevant content
  - b. Have the ability to effectively educate and engage an audience of 35-150 people for up to 45 minutes.
  - c. Provide relevant takeaways for the audience attending.
  - d. Refrain from selling products and/or services during the session. Any proposal or presentation that appears as if it constitutes a sales pitch in any way will not be considered.
5. Agree to allow the Rural Maryland Council to record the presentation, video or voice, and add it to the RMC online library for viewing post-event.

## **Section III: Evaluation Criteria**

1. Proposals will be evaluated for topic relevancy, cutting-edge or new information, overall relevance to the identified topic areas as well as importance and benefit to Rural Maryland Council members.
2. Applicant's experience in practice, research, or presenting in the topic area.

## **Section IV: Submission Requirements and Notification**

The following documents/submissions are required (incomplete submissions will not be evaluated):

1. Completed 2015 Conference Speaker Proposal Online Form [here](#)

Information to be submitted includes, but is not limited to:

Speaker Information – contact name, company/organization, address, e-mail address

Presentation Information – category, title, groups you have presented to, length of session, speaking fee, description of lesson(s) learned to be presented, abstract/session description

Other information – see online form
2. Curriculum vitae, or biographical sketch and resume for every proposed speaker. Please limit curriculum vitae to four (4) pages maximum. Your file name should be your last name with first

initial – CV format (jones,d – CV.doc) and should be submitted in MS Word 2007 or earlier or PDF.

3. The Conference Planning Committee will begin discussions with proposed speakers in August.
4. Notification of decision on all submissions will be sent via e-mail by August 30, 2015.
5. Questions? Please e-mail us at [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov) ; use the subject line “Conference - Call for Speakers.”

### ***About Us***

The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) brings together citizens, community-based organizations, federal, state, county and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to collectively address the needs of Rural Maryland communities. We provide a venue for members of agriculture and natural resource-based industries, health care facilities, educational institutions, economic and community development organizations, for-profit and nonprofit corporations, and government agencies to cross traditional boundaries, share information, and address in a more holistic way the special needs and opportunities in Rural Maryland.

#### **Our goals are to:**

- Enable citizens in rural communities to achieve success in employment and have access to quality, affordable health care, and other services;
- Preserve agriculture and other natural resource-based industry as an integral part of Maryland’s rural economy and culture;
- Advocate for a manageable regulatory process and reasonable and effective compliance; and
- Address the impact of changing conditions on the environment, heritage and economic well-being of rural Maryland.

As a collaborative partnership, the RMC operates in a nonpartisan and nondiscriminatory manner. Policy-makers and managers from stakeholder agencies and organizations at all levels of government and the private sector are valued participants. Where practical, the decision-making undertaken by the RMC is made by reaching consensus.

The vision for the RMC is the ultimate realization that citizens living in rural communities are achieving success in education and employment, have access to affordable, quality health care and other vital public services, and live in an environment where natural and cultural resources are being sustained for future generations.