Plenary 4 — Catalysts to Foster Regional Inclusive Economic Ecosystems
Room: Colosseum

8:45-10:00 A.M.
Plenary 4 – Catalysts to Foster Regional Inclusive Economic

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Introduction by Stephanie Powers, Vice President for Policy & Partnerships, Council on Foundations

Video on Opportunity Zones from U.S. Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina.
Plenary 4 – Catalysts to Foster Regional Inclusive Economic

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Driving the Next Wave of Inclusive Growth and Access to Markets

Moderated by Chris Gergen, CEO, Forward Cities
Demetric Duckett, Associate Director of Capital Innovation, Living Cities and Ines Polonius, CEO, Communities Unlimited.
“WealthWorks for Economic Development”

https://www.wealthworks.org/economic-development-resources/wealthworks-videos
Catalysts to Foster Rural Regional Inclusive Economic Ecosystems

Plenary 4
Ines Polonius
Communities Unlimited, Inc.
Our service area contains 45% of persistent poverty counties in the nation. A persistent poverty county is a county where 20% of the population has lived in poverty for 30 or more years.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from U.S. Census Bureau
MINORITY PERCENTAGE POPULATION 2015

Percent Minority
- > 70
- 51 to 70
- 20 to 50
- < 20
A persistent poverty county: 20% of the population has lived in poverty for 30 or more years.
Source: USDA, ERS
COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY –
Building diverse teams through applied leadership training to create healthy entrepreneurial ecosystems and move toward prosperity.

ENVIRONMENTAL –
Safe drinking water and clean wastewater disposal as foundation for economic development.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- Accelerate Growth
- Transition
- Turnaround
- Start-up through intensive managerial assistance and capital
#1 – Create wealth, broadly defined, and aspire to do no harm.

#2 - Root wealth in local people, places and firms through local ownership, control and influence

#3 – Build lasting livelihoods by intentionally including people and firms on the economic margins.
DeWitt, AR: Value Chain to Ecosystem

- Value chain based on Camelina energy crop
- Delta BioEnergy – Arkansas’ first multi-stakeholder cooperative
- Led to “can do community” and support of entrepreneurs
- 6 new businesses
- 53 new jobs filled by local residents
- $ 4 million in new economic activity annually
- $140,000 in additional sales taxes collected by city
Role of Foundations in Value Chain Building

Value chains do not self-organize but require a consistent coordinator

- Tillotson Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
  - Worked with community to map three possible value chains
  - Funding coordinator for Outdoor Recreation Value Chain
- South Central New York Community Foundation
  - Transitioned from needs assessment to asset based assessment
  - Supporting Rural Health Network using value chain framework
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Ines Polonius, CEO, Communities Unlimited.
Attendees have the opportunity to interact with practitioners and each other in one of three catalyst topics areas.

**Catalyst: Utilizing Diverse Financial Tools - Room, Kingsley**
Practitioners: Teri Lovelace, President, Locus Impact Investing; Todd Abedon, Trustee, Coastal Community Foundation; Bill Barnet, Trustee, Duke Endowment

**Regional Resource Alignment - Room, Forum**
Practitioners: Bob Weissbourd, President, RW Ventures, LLC and Regional Growth Innovation Network; Chris Gergen, CEO, Forward Cities.

**Competitive Talent Development - Room, Colosseum**
Practitioners: Tammie Hoy Hawkins, Project Manager, Northside Development Group; Dr. Jamie Bracey, Professor, Temple University College of Engineering, Founder of the Center for Inclusive Competitiveness
How-to Idea Exchanges

11:00-11:30am

Attendees have the opportunity to interact with practitioners and each other in one of three catalyst topics areas.

Building Board Support to Increase Use of Diverse Financial Tools - Room, Kingsley
Discussion Lead: Bob Morris, President of the Community Foundation of Greenville

Building Staff and Grantee Capacity to Align Regional Resources - Room, Forum
Discussion Lead: Gage Weekes, President & CEO, Hollingsworth Funds

Building Board and Staff Capacity to Support Competitive Talent Development - Room, Colosseum
Discussion Lead: Denise Spencer, President and CEO
The Community Foundation of the Lowcountry
Plenary 5 - Mind the Gap: Ensuring Fast-Paced Innovation Doesn't Leave Behind Vulnerable Populations

*Wrap-up Convening*

Room: Colosseum

3:45-4:30 P.M.
Thank you to our sponsors, partners, and you!