



VIEW*S* & VISIONS

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proven opportunity to create new jobs while providing better access to fresh, healthful food. Healthcare presents a significant opportunity for new ventures in an essential sector, one that also creates good jobs. And, the network recognizes that energy production and efficiency present challenges and opportunities that require innovative strategies to take the region into the future.

The scale of the opportunity is great and requires larger and more informed investments that reach the entire region. Therefore, attracting and leveraging resources from philanthropies both inside and outside the region is key to the network's efforts. Recently, the network led the formation of a funding pool which provided support to local public, academic and nonprofit organizations for the development of strong applications for federal funding to advance economic development in the region. The effort is expected to produce new financial

resources and beneficial partnerships aimed at growing the region's economy.

The Appalachia Funders Network intends to continue to pursue those activities that have a positive collective impact on Central Appalachia as the region's economic, social, and cultural transition evolves. ▾

Please visit www.appalachiafunders.org to find out more about the network.

The Appalachia Funders Network hosted various regional gatherings to focus on topics that impact local communities:

1) Jason Walsh, Senior Policy Advisor, Executive Office of the President, spoke about the role philanthropy plays in strengthening community capacity and the Federal POWER+ Initiative, which provides support to coal-impacted communities

Photo Credit: Appalachia Funders Network

2) Members of the Steering Committee (L-R): Terri Donlin Huesman (Osteopathic Heritage Foundations), Ray Daffner (Appalachian Regional Commission), Marlo Long (BB&T Bank), Susan Urano (Athens Foundation), Gerry Roll (Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky), Joe Woody (USDA-RD Tennessee), Lora Smith (Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation) and Margo Miller (Appalachian Community Fund) Not Pictured: Mary Hunt (The Benedum Foundation)

Photo Credit: Appalachia Funders Network

3) From left, Cynthia Drennan (Sisters Health Foundation), Susan Zepeda (Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky) and Lori Glass (Appalachian Community Capital) participated in an Appalachia Funders Network meeting focused on healthcare opportunities

Photo Credit: Kevin Manuel, Ohio University

4) In April 2015, more than 150 national, regional, and local funders, financial institutions, government agencies and economic development practitioners gathered in Kingsport, Tennessee, for the sixth annual Gathering of the Appalachia Funders Network

Photo Credit: Appalachia Funders Network