Introduction

Welcome and Overview

Background for Session

Extraordinary Results in Ordinary Places

- Corporations
- Schools
- Communities

The Tupelo Experience

Why Tupelo?

- Some historical background
- Highlights of accomplishments
- Accolades
- As a model for community/economic development
- Community development precedes economic development
- Are the ideas and process transferable?

The Tupelo Model in Story Form

Components of the Tupelo Model

- What they did not have!
- Role of individuals: The catalysts
Components of the Tupelo Model (continued)

- Community/economic development as structure building
- The inner core: The true believers
- Establishing trust
- Building concentric circles of partners: RRDCs

- External resources
  - Universities
  - Technical assistance
  - Early success: Building credibility
  - Continually looking for new partners
  - Regional approach

- Planning and the Evolution of Planning

- Building internal capacity: Leadership knowledge skills

- Link between education and economic development
  - Strong public schools
  - Community college
  - University/advanced education center
  - Mentorship/continuous learning
  - Neighborhood development
  - Persistence, Persistence, Persistence

Some recent models:

Learning from Appalachia

- Western North Carolina
- Knott County, Kentucky
- Colquitt/Miller County, Georgia

Morrilton, Arkansas