

SUSTAINING RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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)

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- ☞ 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