

***Developing and Retaining Entrepreneurial Talent in Rural America:
An Economic Development Summit***

**The Radisson Hotel at Waterfront Place
Morgantown, West Virginia
Tuesday, March 9, 2004
9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

This summit brings together a panel of experts in the field of economic development. These panelists have been asked to focus on the following questions regarding economic issues facing rural America:

- What are the key issues facing rural communities as they make the transition from agriculture to other industries?
- How can today's rural communities provide the educational opportunities necessary to prepare the workforce for changing market conditions?
- How can government and private industry partner effectively to bring educational and employment opportunities to rural communities?

AGENDA

9:00—9:05	Welcome –West Virginia High Tech Consortium Mr. James Estep, President and CEO
9:05—9:15	Update on SBA Programs and Services Allegra F. McCullough, SBA Regional Administrator
9:15—9:30	Retaining Entrepreneurial Talent in Rural America The Issues/Solutions—An Overview Ms. Betty Ireland, SBA Advisory Council
9:30—9:45	Introduction of Panelists Judy McCauley, WV Acting District Director <ul style="list-style-type: none">• West Virginia High Tech Consortium Foundation Mr. Jon Elder• Small Office, Home Office Innovative Bank, Ms. Sue Malone• SBA Lending Farmers First Bank, Mr. Paul Lackey• SBDC Ms. M.E. Gamble, Center Director, Fairmont, WV• Federal partnerships USDA, Mr. Jim House HUD, Mr. George H. Rodriguez• Business Development in Rural America SUPRA, Mr. Terry Garrett
9:45—10:30	Panel Discussion: The Issues/Solutions Moderator, Allegra McCullough
10:30—11:30	Open Forum, Q&A from Audience, Networking