



# ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

November 5- 7, 2025  
Downtown Doubletree Hotel  
Nashville, Tennessee

## ■ National Rural Economic Developers Association

### **Tuesday - November 4th:**

- o 7:00 - 9:00: Pre-conference networking reception

### **Wednesday - Nov. 5:**

- Morning pre-conference:
  - o 9:15 - 11:15 tour - A downtown walking tour
  - o 9:15 - 11:15 Pre-conference session: Chellie Phillips
- First-time attendee luncheon 11:30 - 12:30
- Afternoon:
  - o 1:00-1:15 conference welcome
  - o 1:15 - 2:15 Conference kick-off and keynote speaker: Paul Mellor
  - o 2:15-2:30 break
  - o 2:30 - 3:30 Learning session: Future needs/issues in rural areas
  - o 10-minute stretch
  - o 3:40 - 4:40 Learning session: Crisis Communications
  - o 4:40 - 4:45 Close the day/instructions for evening, etc.
- Evening: President's reception - Acme Feed & Seed

### **Thursday - November 6th:**

#### Morning:

- o 8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast/awards/Intro to United First Aid (Iowa's Lieutenant Governor)
- o 9:05 - 10:05 Breakout learning sessions
  - Cyber Security - Michael Ramage
  - Using AI Tools
  - Building redevelopment
  - United First Aid
- o 10:05 - 10:30 Break
- o 10:30 - 11:30 Breakouts repeat
- 11:30 - 12:45 Lunch and Learn - Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

#### Afternoon:

- o 1:00 - 2:00 learning session: Charlie Smith - Impact of Policies and Geopolitics
- o 2:15 - 4:30 Mobile Classrooms
  - Lebanon downtown revitalization
  - Cheatham County - manufacturing tour

#### Evening:

- o 4:45 - 6:15 Light reception – (at Doubletree)
- o State dinners, dinner on your own ...

### **Friday - November 7th:**

#### Morning:

- o 8:15 - 9:15 Breakfast/Committee updates/annual meeting
- o 9:15 - 10:15 1 Learning session: Site Selection Panel (Richard is organizing)
- o 10:15 - 10:30 Break
- o 10:30 - 11:30 Inspiring speaker - Joe Max Higgins
- o 11:30 - 11:45 Closing