



NREDA

NATIONAL.
RURAL.
CONNECTED.

2026 Annual Conference



November 4-6, 2026 | Salt Lake City, Utah

Elevating Innovation from the Ground Up

Wednesday, November 4th

8:00am – 4:30pm

Onsite Check-in at Salt Lake City Marriott Center

10:00am – 11:00am

Pre-Conference Session

“Lead Without Speaking – The Importance of Nonverbal Communication”

Erick Rheam

11:15am – 12:45pm

New Member/First Time Attendee Luncheon

1:00pm – 1:15pm

Conference Welcome

Karla Organist, NREDA President

Kris Williams, 2026 NREDA Annual Conference Chair

1:15pm – 2:15pm

“Rise Above Chaos and Discover Significance”

Erick Rheam

2:15pm – 3:15pm

30-Day AI Challenge Panel

Josh Seidemann

3:15pm – 3:30pm

Networking Break

3:30pm – 4:30pm

“Millennials and Entrepreneurship through Acquisition (ETA)”

Diane Hartz Warsoff

4:30pm – 4:45pm

Closing Remarks

Scavenger Hunt: Get ready to explore Salt Lake City and connect with fellow NREDA attendees! Complete fun challenges with your team on Wednesday and/or Thursday for a chance to win a prize (announced Thursday). More details coming soon!

Dinner on your own

6:30pm – 8:30pm

President’s Reception

Light Appetizers and one Drink Ticket provided

Thursday, November 5th

8:00am – 5:00pm

Onsite Check-in at Salt Lake City Marriott Center

8:00am – 9:00am

NREDA Breakfast & Awards Ceremony

9:00am – 9:15am

Networking Break

9:15am – 10:15am

Breakout Sessions

- **Session 1: “NIMBYism”**

Lindsay Diehl

- **Session 2: Rural Housing Panel: “Programs, Funding Sources, New Development, and Revitalization”**

Lisa Hurley, Heather Presley-Cowen

- **Session 3: “Understanding the New Legislation on Opportunity Zones and New Market Tax Credits”**

Thane Hutcheson, Michael O'Mara

10:15am – 10:30am

Networking Break

10:30am – 11:30am

Breakout Sessions

- **Session 1: “NIMBYism”** (*Repeat Session*)

- **Session 2: Rural Housing Panel: “Programs, Funding Sources, New Development, and Revitalization”**

(*Repeat Session*)

- **Session 3: The Bureau of Indian Affairs Division of Energy and Mineral Development**

11:30am – 12:30pm

NREDA Lunch & Learn

Ryan Mack, Visit Salt Lake

12:30pm – 12:45pm

Networking Break

12:45pm – 1:45pm

“Elevating the Pipeline: Developing the Community Leaders of Tomorrow, Today”

Tamien Dysart

1:45pm – 2:00pm

Networking Break

2:00pm – 5:00pm

Mobile Classrooms

- Double Decker Bus Tour of Salt Lake City
- Gateway Mall Tour
- Temple Square and Family Search Library Tour

5:00pm – 6:30pm

Networking Reception

Sports Night! Wear your favorite sports team apparel

Scavenger Hunt Day 2

Friday, November 6th

8:00am – 10:00am	Onsite Check-in at Salt Lake City Marriott Center
8:30am – 9:30am	NREDA Annual Business Meeting Breakfast
9:30am – 9:45am	Networking Break
9:45am – 10:45am	Site Selector Panel Lindsay Diehl Alex Patrick Chris Wimsatt
10:45am – 11:45am	Closing Keynote Charlie Smith
11:45am – 12:00pm	Conference Closing Remarks Karla Organist, NREDA President Kris Williams, 2026 NREDA Annual Conference Chair

SAVE THE DATE

2027 NREDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PITTSBURGH, PA

NOV. 3RD - 5TH



Mobile Classrooms

Thursday - November 5th 2:00pm-5:00pm

Double Decker Bus Tour of Salt Lake City

This double decker bus is fully enclosed on both decks. The route/itinerary covers Temple Square, the Cathedral of the Madeleine, the Utah State Capitol, a scenic drive through the Wasatch Foothills, This Is the Place Heritage Park and the Pioneer Center, and a tour of downtown Salt Lake City's development corridor — all with live expert commentary woven throughout.

Gateway Mall Tour

An overview of how The Gateway has successfully pivoted and evolved in response to market changes since the development of a competing shopping center just a few blocks away.

- Discussion of open, pending, & recently completed redevelopment at the center.
- Insights into strategies for attracting new businesses and retaining existing tenants.
- Perspectives on drawing visitors to the center and encouraging repeat visitation.
- Considerations on how external factors—such as surrounding area development, economic shifts, weather patterns, and changing consumer and business needs—are currently impacting the center.

Temple Square and Family Search Library (Limit of 40 Attendees)

Located in the heart of downtown Salt Lake City, historic Temple Square is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Utah and is the world headquarters of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The five-city-block area draws millions of visitors from all over the world because of its research libraries, cultural activities and historic buildings. The centerpiece of the square is the Salt Lake Temple, the product of four decades of construction in the 19th century.

West of the main Temple Square block, those interested in learning more about genealogy flock to the Family History Library, the largest library of its kind in the world. Next door is the Church History Museum, which tells the story of the worldwide Church through educational exhibits and programs.