

Building Vibrant Communities

17th Annual Rural Development Conference

April 11-12, 2012

Cookeville, Tennessee

Schedule & location information [Click Here](#)

Click here to register online now

For questions about the conference, call USDA Rural Development at 615-783-1300 or email ra.tnrstatedirector@tn.usda.gov



LUC Golf Tournament
4/11

Featuring

(click names for more info)



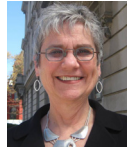
Josh Bays
Site Selection Group



Mimi Bliss
Bliss Communications



Michael Burcham
Nashville Entrepreneur Center



Valecia Crisafulli
National Trust for Historic Preservation



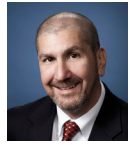
Pete Nelson
New Business Development BioDimensions



Jeff Miller
Innovative Leadership Solutions



Philip Walker
The Walker Collaborative



Laith Wardi
ExecutivePulse

Workshops include

- Business Retention and Expansion
- Site Selection Trends in Today's Marketplace
- Mainstreet Revitalization
- Downtown Planning for Small Communities
- Nurturing Entrepreneurs in Your Community
- Moving Forward in a Lean Fiscal Environment
- How Do You Answer the Question:
What Have You done to Bring Jobs to the Community?
- Building and Leading Communities in an Era of Increasing Complexity and Chaos
- New Opportunities for Rural Communities from Bioenergy & Biobased Products
- Tech REDI - The Regional Economic Development Institute



Bryan Townsend
Motivational Humorist
Luncheon Speaker



Committed to the future of rural communities.



What local leaders say about the conference:

“The plenary and lunch speakers were comparable to any national conference I have attended, and **exceeded most of them.**”

“Outstanding conference... Always worth the time spent, excellent speakers and **truly relevant workshops!**”

“**The networking is great,** and I appreciate all that Rural Development does to help the communities. Please keep it up.”

“**Better and better.** I have been coming to this conference for the past six years and all have been good, but this one sticks out as the best.”

“Hard to single out one workshop as the best...all the sessions I attended were **just outstanding.**”