



# NWA GROWING COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE

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March 13, 2019 ■ Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences

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- 9:00 a.m.**    **Morning Emcee:** Jeff Hawkins, *Executive Director, NWARPC*  
**Welcome:** Dr. Rick Cartwright, *Associate V.P. for Agriculture – Extension*
- 9:15**        **Keynote:** **Trends, Challenges and Opportunities for Growing Communities in Northwest Arkansas** - Dr. Mervin Jebaraj, *Director, Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas*
- 10:00**       **Shaping the Future of Your Community** – Dr. Mark Peterson, *Professor of Community and Economic Development, UACES*
- 11:00**       **Economic Development in Small Communities:** Strategies to Create, Grow and Attract Businesses - Katie Teague, moderator
- Siloam Springs CED and Main Street Program - Don Clark
  - Small Business Administration - Edward Haddock
  - Arkansas Procurement Technical Assistance Center – Mark Peterson
  - Huntsville's Shop Local Events – Brittany Little
  - Arkansas Small Business Technology Development Center – Mary Beth Brooks
- 1:30 p.m.**    **Afternoon Emcee:** Dr. Stacey McCullough, *Assistant Director – CED, UACES*  
**Managing Growth through Planning and Infrastructure Improvements**  
Dr. Roby Robertson, moderator
- Tim Conklin, AICP, Assistant Director of Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission
  - Juliet Richey, AICP, Urban Planner, Garver
  - Ron Petrie, P.E., Senior Project Manager, Garver
- 3:15 p.m.**    **Funding Sources for Infrastructure** - Johnny Gunsaulis, moderator
- Communities Unlimited - Michelle Viney
  - USDA Rural Development - Johnny James, Neal Hodges and Jennifer Harness
  - Arkansas Natural Resources Commission - Debby Dickson
  - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Kelsey Kelton
- 4:15 p.m.**    **Northwest Arkansas Growing Communities Network**