Session II: Identifying Economic Opportunities  
December 9-10, 2020

Wednesday, December 9  
**All Times Eastern**

Morning Session

9:00 – 9:15 am  Welcome & Opening  
Brandon McBride, Executive Director, Appalachian Regional Commission  
Tim Thomas, Federal Co-Chairman, Appalachian Regional Commission

9:15 – 9:30 am  Coffee Talk  
Bruce Decker, Owner, Collective Impact

9:30 – 10:30 am  Keynote Speaker
Kim Caudle Lewis, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, PROJECTXYZ, Inc. a fireside chat with moderator Katie Cahill, Ph.D. Associate Director, Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy

10:30 – 10:45 am  Break

10:45 am – 12:00 pm  Strengthening Economic Resilience in Appalachia
Stephan J. Goetz, Ph.D., Professor of Agriculture and Regional Economics, Penn State University  
Christine Gyovai, Principal, Dialogue + Design Associates  
Evan Hansen, Founder, Downstream Strategies  
Kostas Skordas, Director, Research & Evaluation, Appalachian Regional Commission

with moderator Tim Ezzell, Ph.D., Assistant Research Professor, ISSE and Political Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

12:00 – 12:30 pm  Industrial Makeup of the Appalachian Region
Logan Thomas, Economist, Appalachian Regional Commission
Afternoon Session

2:00 – 3:15 pm  Transforming Industries Using Emerging Technology
Electric Vehicles and the Auto Industry: David Greene, Ph.D., Research Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Tennessee Knoxville
Solar Power and the Energy Industry: Lindsay Cherry, Market Intelligence and Policy Manager, Q CELLS North America
Rare Earth Elements and the Mining Industry: Deborah Penchoff, Ph.D., Associate Director, Innovative Computing Laboratory

with moderator Katie Cahill, Ph.D., Associate Director, Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy

3:15 – 3:30 pm  Break

3:30 – 4:15 pm  Key Tool: Strategic Planning
Tim Ezzell, Ph.D., Assistant Research Professor, ISSE and Political Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

4:15 – 5:30 pm  Breakout Discussion: Finding Common Ground
Bruce Decker, Owner, Collective Impact

Thursday, December 10
**All Times Eastern**

Morning Session

9:00 – 9:05 am  The Day Ahead
Jessica Mosley, Program Manager, Appalachian Leadership Institute

9:05 – 9:20 am  Coffee Talk
Cat Wilt, Research Director, University of Tennessee Knoxville


10:15 – 10:30 am  Break

10:30 – 11:30 am  Communities Leading the Way
Hub-and-Spoke Models for Manufacturing: Mike Workman, CEO, Contraxx Furniture
Community Development Revisited: Tasha Hargrove, Ph.D., Associate Extension Research Professor, Agricultural and Resource Economics, Tuskegee University
and Robert Zabawa, Ph.D., Research Professor, Agricultural and Resource Economics, Tuskegee University
Leveraging Infrastructure for Tourism: Becky Sullivan, Executive Director, Fayette County Chamber of Commerce

with moderator Cat Wilt, Research Director, University of Tennessee Knoxville

11:30 am – 12:00 pm  **Leadership Reports: Profiles & Behaviors**
*Katie Cahill, Ph.D., Associate Director, Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy*

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**Afternoon Session**

2:00 – 3:00 pm  **How People and Machines Are Smarter Together**
*James Scott, Ph.D., Professor, Information, Risk, and Operations Management, The University of Texas at Austin and co-author of AIQ: How People and Machines are Smarter Together*

3:00 – 3:05 pm  **Break**

3:05 – 5:45 pm  **Team Challenge: Planning Through Disruptive Opportunities**
*Tim Ezzell, Ph.D., Assistant Research Professor, ISSE and Political Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville*