Session II: Identifying Economic Opportunities
December 8-9, 2021

Wednesday, December 8
**All Times Eastern**

**Morning Session**
9:00 – 9:10 am  Welcome & The Day Ahead

9:10 – 9:20 am  Coffee Talk
  Bruce Decker, Owner, Collective Impact, LLC

9:20 – 9:30 am  You are Here: Welcome to Mississippi!
  Todd Jordan, Mayor, Tupelo
  Mike Armour, State Director, ARC Mississippi
  Andrea Rose, Project Manager, ARC Mississippi

9:30 – 10:00 am  Foundations: Economic Development Strategies & the Creative Class
  Tim Ezzell, Ph.D., Assistant Research Professor, ISSE and Political Science,
  University of Tennessee, Knoxville

10:00 – 11:00 am  Fireside Chat with Governor Haley Barbour (R-MS)
  Moderator: Katie Cahill, Ph.D., Associate Director, Howard H. Baker Jr.
  Center for Public Policy

11:00 – 11:30 am  Break

11:30 am – 12:15 pm  Snapshot: A Picture of the Appalachian Economy
  Logan Thomas, Economist, Appalachian Regional Commission

**Afternoon Session**
2:00 – 2:15 pm  Coffee Talk
  Cat Wilt, Research Director, University of Tennessee Knoxville
2:15 – 3:15 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  
Moderator: Tim Ezzell, Ph.D., Assistant Research Professor, ISSE and Political Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

3:15 – 3:30 pm  
**Break**

3:30 – 4:15 pm  
**Key Tool: Strategic Planning**  
Cat Wilt, Research Director, University of Tennessee Knoxville

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

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**Thursday, December 9**  
**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  
Bruce Decker, Owner, Collective Impact, LLC

9:20 – 10:15 am  
Family Feud: Appalachia Edition

10:15 – 10:30 am  
Break

10:30 – 11:30 am  
A 21st Economy: the future of energy and transportation  
*Electric Vehicles and the Auto Industry:*  
Jonathan Overly, Executive Director, East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition  
*Solar Power and the Energy Industry:*  
Charles Sims, Ph.D. Director, Energy & Environment Program, University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
*Rare Earth Elements and the Mining Industry:*  
Deborah Penchoff, Ph.D., Associate Director, Innovative Computing Laboratory  
Moderator: Bruce Decker, Owner, Collective Impact, LLC

11:30 am – 12:15 pm  
Leadership Reports: Profiles & Behaviors  
Katie Cahill, Ph.D., Associate Director, Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy
Afternoon Session
1:45 – 2:00 pm    Coffee Talk
                Cat Wilt, Research Director, University of Tennessee Knoxville

2:00 – 3:00 pm    The Possibilities of Technological Advancements for the Region: Book
                    Reaction and Discussion
                Deacon Stone, Director of Innovation, Robert C. Byrd Innovation Center at
                    Marshall University
                Moderator: Katie Cahill, Ph.D., Associate Director, Howard H. Baker Jr.
                    Center for Public Policy

3:00 – 3:15 pm    Break

3:15 – 5:00 pm    Team Challenge: Disruptive Opportunities
                    Katie Cahill, Ph.D., Associate Director, Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public
                    Policy

5:00 – 5:45 pm    Team Challenge Presentations

5:45 – 6:00 pm    Synthesis
                    Bruce Decker, Owner, Collective Impact, LLC
                    Cat Wilt, Research Director, University of Tennessee Knoxville