

Delta Summit 2022

Hilton Riverside New Orleans

March 29 – 31, 2022

Tuesday, March 29

- 8:00am - 12:00pm **Exhibition Hall Setup** | The District (pre-function area, 3rd floor)
- 12:00 - 2:00pm **Delta Summit Registration** | The District
- 2:00 - 2:20pm **Welcome** | St. Charles Ballroom
Dr. Corey Wiggins, Federal Co-Chair, Delta Regional Authority
Leslie Durham, Alternate Federal Co-Chair, Delta Regional Authority
GOLD SPONSOR: Alyssa L. Meller, Chief Operating Officer, National Rural Health Resource Center
- 2:20 – 2:40pm **Recognition Ceremony** | St. Charles Ballroom
Pete Johnson, Federal Co-Chair, Delta Regional Authority (2002-2009)
Rex Nelson, Alternate Federal Co-Chair, Delta Regional Authority (2005-2009)
Chris Masingill, Federal Co-Chair, Delta Regional Authority (2010-2017)
Mike Marshall, Alternate Federal Co-Chair, Delta Regional Authority (2010-2017)
Chris Caldwell, Federal Co-Chair, Delta Regional Authority (2018-2021)
Peter Kinder, Alternate Federal Co-Chair, Delta Regional Authority (2017-2018)
- 2:40 – 3:00pm **Opening Remarks** | St. Charles Ballroom
Governor John Bel Edwards, State of Louisiana
- 3:00 - 4:15pm **Opening Plenary** | Economic Development and Community Resiliency in the Mississippi River Delta Region
Dr. Corey Wiggins, Federal Co-Chair, Delta Regional Authority
Leslie A. Durham, Alternate Federal Co-Chair, Delta Regional Authority
Secretary Don Pierson, Louisiana Economic Development
Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome, City of Baton Rouge, Parish of East Baton Rouge
Mayor Friday Ellis, City of Monroe
Mayor Jennifer Vidrine, City of Ville Platte
Moderator – Michael Hecht, President & CEO, GNO Inc.
- 4:30 - 5:30pm **Welcome Reception** | Sponsored by Tunica – Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana

Wednesday, March 30

- 7:00 - 8:45am **Networking Breakfast** | St. James Ballroom
- 7:00 - 8:45am **Delta Summit Registration** | The District
- 8:45 – 9:00am **Welcome** | St. Charles Ballroom
PLATINUM SPONSOR: *Sonia Axter, Managing Director, Ullico Infrastructure Fund*
- 9:00 - 10:00am **Morning Plenary | Fireside Chat** – St. Charles Ballroom
James Carville, Political Icon
Moderator – *Clancy DuBos, Journalist*
- 10:00 - 10:30am **Networking Break**
- 10:30 - 11:45am **Concurrent Sessions**

Public Infrastructure and Transportation	Leveraging the Mississippi River to Enhance Intermodal Transportation	Dr. Norma Jean Mattei , <i>Professor, University of New Orleans</i>	Royal
Workforce Development and Education	Community Colleges Addressing Industry Needs	Josh Bower , Director of Talent, Workforce, and Economic Development, Hinds Community College Kevin O’Neill , VP of Workforce and Economic Development, West Kentucky Community and Technical College	Jackson
Business Development and Entrepreneurship	Business Incubation Models that Strengthen Entrepreneurial Ecosystems	Dr. James Stapleton , Co-founder, Codefi and Codefi Foundation on Rural Innovation, Inc. Tonitric Wicks , Program Officer, Delta I-Fund	Fulton
Community Revitalization	Brownfields 101: Assessment to Redevelopment	Trey Hess , Director of Brownfields & Economic Development, PPM Consultants Chad LaComb , Development Planner II, Acadiana Planning Commission	Commerce
Public Health	Maintaining a Healthy Workforce: How to Address Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder, and Burnout	Dr. Steve Pautler , Chief Executive Officer, Ste. Genevieve County Memorial Hospital Maryam Abdallah , Founder & CEO, I am Well Consulting, LLC Gina Matlock , Community Champion, Henry County Medical Center Moderator – Mellie Bridewell , President / Chief Executive Officer, Arkansas Rural Health Partnership	Magazine

<i>DRA Programs and Initiatives</i>	<i>DRA Critical Infrastructure Programs</i>	<i>Amanda Allen, Senior Program Manager - SEDAP, Delta Regional Authority</i> <i>Darci Malam, Program Management Specialist, Delta Regional Authority</i>	Jefferson
<i>Delta Leadership Network</i>	<i>Lift Ev'ry Voice: Advancing an Inclusive Creative Economy through Equitable Cultural Heritage</i>	<i>Tina Naremore Jones, Ph.D., Black Belt National Heritage Area</i> <i>Rebecca Blankenbaker, Executive Director at Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc.</i> <i>Rhonda Price, Director, Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area Program (invited)</i> <i>Keena Graham, Superintendent, Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument</i> <i>Malika Polk-Lee, Executive Director, B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center</i> <i>Moderator – Rolando Herts, Ph.D., Director, Delta Center for Culture and Learning, Delta State University</i>	Canal

11:45am - 12:45pm **Networking Lunch** | St. James Ballroom

12:45 - 2:00pm **Concurrent Sessions**

<i>Public Infrastructure and Transportation</i>	<i>Broadband Connectivity for All</i>	<i>Scott Woods, Director of the Office of Minority Broadband Initiatives, National Telecommunications, and Information Administration</i> <i>Glenn Fishbine, Chief Technology Officer, GEO Partners LLC (virtual)</i>	Canal
<i>Workforce Development and Education</i>	<i>Labor Market Trends and Best Practices for Workforce Development</i>	<i>Allison Forbes, Vice President of Research, Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness</i>	Royal
<i>Business Development and Entrepreneurship</i>	<i>Access to Capital for Urban, Rural, and Minority Entrepreneurs</i>	<i>Jon Atkinson, CEO, The Idea Village</i> <i>Kathy Saloy, Sr. Vice President for Community Economic Development, Hope Enterprise Corporation</i> <i>Moderator – Rebecca Kaufman, Senior Director, AgLaunch</i>	Fulton

Community Revitalization	Capitalizing on Federal and State Funding Opportunities: Grants, Loans, and Tax Credits	John Sutherlin, Ph.D. , Chief Innovation Officer, University of Louisiana Monroe	Jefferson
Public Health	Rural Healthcare Facilities: Economic Engines for Delta Communities	Joshua Gilmore , Chief Executive Officer, Iron County Medical Center Kirk Soileau , Chief Executive Officer, Natchitoches Regional Medical Center Alison Davis , H.B. Price Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics / Executive Director, Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky Moderator: Alyssa Meller , Chief Operating Officer, National Rural Health Center	Commerce
DRA Programs and Initiatives	DRA Health Programs	Christina Wade , Program Manager - Health, Delta Regional Authority Mandy Guin , Program Manager - Innovative Readiness Training, Delta Regional Authority	Magazine
Delta Leadership Network	What does passion have to do with it? Engaging and sustaining community leaders for change on the other side of COVID-19	Hunter Goodman, Ph.D. , Assistant Professor, Community, Workforce, and Economic Development, University of Arkansas System, Division of Agriculture	Jackson

2:00 - 2:30pm

Networking Break

2:30 - 3:45pm

Concurrent Sessions

Public Infrastructure and Transportation	Water and Wastewater Management in Rural Communities	Kevin White, PhD , Professor, University of Southern Alabama	Canal
Workforce Development and Education	Cultivating Workforce Development Ecosystems	Dr. John Nicklow , President, University of New Orleans Jim Carlson, Ed.D. , Interim Chancellor, River Parishes Community College Dr. Yolanda Page , VP for Academic Affairs, Dillard University Moderator – Josh Tatum , Director of Strategic Initiatives, GNO Inc.	Jackson
Business Development and Entrepreneurship	Business Incubation Models that Strengthen Entrepreneurial Ecosystems (REPEAT)	Dr. James Stapleton , Co-founder, Codefi and Codefi Foundation on Rural Innovation, Inc. Tonitric Wicks , Program Officer, Delta I-Fund	Jefferson

Community Revitalization	Reinvigorating Investment into Main Street	Adrienne LaFrance-Wells , Main Street Director, City of West Monroe Bub Gideons , Chairman of the Board, Pride of Atmore Amy Stegall , Main Street Director and Community Coordinator, City of Ruston	Royal
Public Health	Executing an Innovative Readiness Training Medical Mission	Captain Patricia Gould , Air National Guard IRT Medical Project Manager, U.S. Air Force Joel Evans , Chief Executive Officer, Delta Area Economic Opportunity Corporation Susan Youngblood , Community Advocate/Program Director, Selma Redevelopment Authority Moderator – Bevin Hunter , Director of Economic Development, The Lawrence Group	Commerce
DRA Programs and Initiatives	DRA Human Infrastructure Programs	Alex Holland , Senior Advisor, Delta Regional Authority Sea Talantis , Program Manager - Leadership, Delta Regional Authority Susan Edwards , Program Analyst, Delta Regional Authority	Magazine
Delta Leadership Network	Talent Attraction in a Changing Delta	Mark Herbison , President, HTL Advantage Tim Lingo , Human Resources Director, Aerojet Rocketdyne The Honorable Ronny Walker , Mayor, City of Ruston Moderator – Gwyn Fisher , Director, Greater Memphis Regional Economic and Community Development, State of Tennessee	Fulton

3:45 - 4:00pm

Networking Break

4:00 - 5:30pm

Afternoon Plenary | The Downtown Comeback | St. Charles Ballroom

The story of a hometown, downtown, small town USA comeback. A behind the scenes view of the community restoration that led to the historic home restoration you see on TV.

Jim Rasberry, HGTV's "Home Town"

Mallorie Rasberry, HGTV's "Home Town"

Josh Nowell, HGTV's "Home Town"

Ryan Biles, Architect, Kudzu Collective; Fellow, 2022 Delta Leadership Institute

Thursday, March 31

7:00 - 8:45am **Networking Breakfast** | St. James Ballroom

8:45 - 9:00am **Announcements** | St. Charles Ballroom

9:00 - 10:00am **Morning Keynote | Heartland: Working Hard & Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth**
Sarah Smarsh, Journalist, and Author of “Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth”
Moderator – Joshua Stockley, Ph.D., Professor, University of Louisiana Monroe

10:00 - 10:30am **Networking Break | Book Signing**

10:30 - 11:45am **Concurrent Sessions**

Workforce Development and Education	Work-based Learning Models Supporting Career Pathways in the IT Industry	Kagan Coughlin, Co-founder & Trustee, Base Camp Coding Academy	Royal
Business Development and Entrepreneurship	Emerging Industries Advancing Innovation in Agriculture and Construction	Pete Nelson, Executive Director, AgLaunch Zack Mannheimer, Founder & CEO, Alquist	Jackson
Community Revitalization	Philanthropy in the Delta Region	Kim Davis, Senior Advisor - Home Region Program, Walton Family Foundation Abe Hudson, Program Officer - Home Region Program, Walton Family Foundation Justin Burch, Director of Workforce Development, Rural LISC Moderator – Rebecca Kaufman, Senior Director, AgLaunch	Jefferson
Public Health	Maintaining a Healthy Workforce: How to Address Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder, and Burnout	Dr. Steve Pautler, Chief Executive Officer, Ste. Genevieve County Memorial Hospital Maryam Abdallah, Founder & CEO, I am Well Consulting, LLC Gina Matlock, Community Champion, Henry County Medical Center Moderator – Mellie Bridewell, President / Chief Executive Officer, Arkansas Rural Health Partnership	Commerce

DRA Programs and Initiatives	DRA Critical Infrastructure Programs	Amanda Allen , Senior Program Manager - SEDAP, Delta Regional Authority Darci Malam , Program Management Specialist, Delta Regional Authority	Fulton
Delta Leadership Network	When Disaster Strikes and the DLN Response	Leslie Durham , Alternate Federal Co-Chairwoman, Delta Regional Authority The Honorable Jake Bynum , Mayor, Weakley County, Tennessee; Regional Advisory Council FEMA (TBD) SBA (TBD) Moderator – Mary Anne Medlock , West Kentucky Workforce Board Business Services Liaison; Regional Advisory Council	Magazine

11:45am - 12:15pm **Networking Break** | Refreshments Provided

12:15 - 1:30pm **Closing Plenary** | Resilient Leadership in the Age of Covid-19: Plan, Prepare, Execute and Adapt Your Plan
Lt. General Russel L. Honoré, Commander of Joint Task Force Katrina and Leader of U.S. Capitol Complex Security Review

1:30pm **Book Signing** | Lt. General Russel L. Honoré

2:00pm **Adjourn**