

The 7th Annual North Country Symposium

Sponsored by St. Lawrence University's Ellen C. Burt '42 Endowment for North Country
Education

April 1-2, 2009

Eben Holden Conference Center, St. Lawrence University

<http://www.northcountryrsymposium.org>

“Opportunities for Sustainable Growth in Today’s Economy”

Program

Wednesday, April 1

6:30pm **Registration**

7:00 **Welcome and Background on Symposium**

James Shuman, Chair, Symposium Steering Committee

Today’s Economy and its Impact on the North Country

Description of why this year’s symposium is not “business as usual”

Progress Reports on Symposium Initiatives

Updates on three projects funded by Symposium small grants in 2008-2009

Response and Keynote Preview

Jeff Yost – President and CEO, Nebraska Community Foundation (speaker information on reverse side)

Thursday, April 2

8:30am **Registration**

9:00 **Welcome and Background on Symposium**

James Shuman, Chair, Symposium Steering Committee

Keynote: “The Nebraska Experience – Success Stories and Challenges for 2009”

Jeff Yost – President and CEO, Nebraska Community Foundation

10:15 **“News Report” on Wednesday Evening’s Symposium**

David Somerstein, North Country Public Radio

10:30 **“Silver Linings: Opportunities within the Current Economic Crisis”**

Presentations on six current North Country initiatives working toward sustainability

12:00 **Lunch**

1:00pm **Instructions to Action/Research Teams and Questions to Consider**

1:15 **Action/Research Team meetings**

4:00

Reports from Action/Research Teams
Responses from Keynote Speaker and Closing Comments

Keynote Speaker

Jeff Yost serves as President and CEO for the Nebraska Community Foundation (US). With over 180 affiliated funds and \$25 million in assets, NCF has reinvested nearly \$60 million in Nebraska communities since 1993. NCF is heralded as a national model for its innovative work in empowering community leadership, estimating the intergenerational transfer of wealth to craft community endowment building strategies, and linking charitable giving to building greater economic opportunity through entrepreneurship. NCF has been featured in the *New York Times* and the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*. In 2005, NCF received one of only six grants from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation's program for Entrepreneurship Development Systems to expand its "HomeTown Competitiveness" initiatives. Mr. Yost has been a frequent keynote speaker at state-level programs and workshops on funding for local and regional community development and on leadership development for entrepreneurship.

North Country Symposium Steering Committee

Chair: **Dr. James Shuman**, *Chair, Department of Education*, St. Lawrence University

Members: **Ann Adams**, *Superintendent*, Hermon-DeKalb Central School District

and *Member*, St. Lawrence County Council of Chief School Officers

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Kathryn Del Guidice, *Director of Extended Studies, Continuing Education & Lifelong Learning*, SUNY Canton

Deborah Elek, *Director, Regional Research and Community Education Center*, SUNY Potsdam

Ann Heidenreich, *Executive Director*, Community Energy Services, Inc.

Linda McQuinn, *Director of Economic Development*, Town and Village of Canton

Allan Newell, *President*, Sweetgrass Foundation, Inc.

Brian Norton, *Economic Developer*, St. Lawrence County Office of Economic Development

Leigh Rodriguez, *Economic Developer*, St. Lawrence County Office of Economic Development

Gregory Slack, *Director of Research and Technology Transfer*, Clarkson University

David Somerstein, *Reporter and Producer*, North Country Public Radio

Karen St. Hilaire, *County Administrator*, St. Lawrence County Government

William Vitek, *Associate Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences*, Clarkson University

Justin Woods, *Director of Planning and Development*, City of Ogdensburg

Bob Zimmerman, *Member, Board of Directors*, St. Lawrence Leadership Institute

Keith Zimmerman, *Director*, St. Lawrence County Planning Office

Ex Officio: **Dr. Daniel Sullivan**, *President*, St. Lawrence University

Ann Sullivan, *Associate to the President*, St. Lawrence University

Benjamin Dixon, *Coordinator, Regional Development & Sustainability*, St. Lawrence University

Doug Welch, *Coordinator, Community Development and Energy Programs*, St. Lawrence University
and *Chair*, St. Lawrence County Planning Board

Grace Bogosian, *Work-Study Clerical Assistant*