

The 8th Annual North Country Symposium

“Our North Country Future, Starting Now!”

April 6th and April 7th, 2010

Eben Holden Conference Center, St. Lawrence University

Program Overview

"The mission of the annual Symposium is to convene stakeholders in northern New York to explore and ultimately enhance the region's economic, environmental, and educational vitality." The Annual Symposium is sponsored by the Ellen C. Burt '42 Endowment for North Country Education at St. Lawrence University.

This year's North Country Symposium, the 8th annual conference, takes place amidst unprecedented economic conditions in the region, state, and nation that have not been seen in several decades. This year's North Country Symposium explores two challenges of the situation: the future implications of current demographic trends in the region (and in St. Lawrence County in particular), and ways in which regional approaches to initiatives make sense for all of us together.

This year's keynote speaker, Dr. David Brown, is Co-Director of Cornell University's Community and Rural Development Institute (CaRDI). A demographer and noted researcher on rural development, Dr. Brown will highlight the current demographics of the North Country with an eye toward suggestion challenges our region will face in the coming decades. Because CaRDI has worked with other regions and communities throughout New York State and surrounding states, Dr. Brown will also provide information about ways in which community involvement and planning can help us to consider possible solutions and initiatives that can position us well. In his own words, "demographics are not destiny." Instead, they are merely data that can help us understand and think carefully about options.

The Symposium will also feature remarks by local leaders who have been working with our North Country demographics to plan for the future in their own areas, including health care, education, agriculture, and energy. In addition, there will be time for participants to discuss possibilities and design plans for ongoing research and initiatives to help us move toward a more sustainable future.