

## **Libraries and Community Economic Development**

*Presented by Alliance Library System, WIU Libraries, and the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA)*

*Facilitated by Christopher Merrett, IIRA and Christine Hamilton-Pennell, Growing Local Economies*

### **Agenda**

- 8:30 – 9:00      **Registration**
- 9:00 – 9:20      **Introductions**
- 9:20 – 9:50      **IIRA as a community economic development (CED) resource**  
*Christopher Merrett, IIRA*
- Introduction to CED
  - Introduction to the IIRA as a CED resource in Illinois
  - “Change agents” in the community
- 9:50 – 10:30      **Overview of community economic development**  
*Christine Hamilton-Pennell, Growing Local Economies*
- Local economy 101
  - Entrepreneurship as an economic development strategy
  - Characteristics of entrepreneurs
  - Economic gardening (EG) principles and models
- 10:30 – 10:45      **Break**
- 10:45 – 12:00      **The role of libraries in local community and economic development initiatives**  
*Christine Hamilton-Pennell, Growing Local Economies*
- What librarians have to offer (assets) - brainstorm
  - Benefits of library involvement (return on investment)
  - It’s not doing story hour: Overcoming barriers to library involvement
  - How to participate in a local Community and Economic Development initiative:
    - o Case studies and advice from other librarians
    - o The case of Hoopeston, Illinois – 5-10 minutes
- 12:00 – 1:30      **Lunch and table discussion**
- Unveil the website
  - Link librarians with economic development representative
  - Questions for problem solving and sharing using coach or table moderator
  - Notes for white paper
- 1:30 – 2:10      **Business 101**  
*Christine Hamilton-Pennell, Growing Local Economies*
- Types of local businesses
  - What small and growing businesses need
  - Framework for understanding business strategy in a rural environment
  - Framework for business reference interview
- 2:10 – 2:35      **Library support of local business needs**  
*Christine Hamilton-Pennell and Christopher Merrett*
- Overview of business information tools and resources
  - Examples of business research questions
  - Packaging the research
- 2:35 – 2:45      **Break**
- 2:45 – 3:15      **Next steps and evaluation exercise**  
*Felix Chu, WIU Libraries*
- Participating in future workshops
  - Participation sign-up