

# The Rural Alliance Welcomes you



14th  
Conference  
January 29-30, 2017

Partnering to increase options and opportunities for rural  
students, families, and communities



# Rural Alliance for College Success

January 29-30, 2017  
Kalispel Room

Northern Quest Resort & Casino (Hotel & Conf. Center) ~ Spokane (Airway Heights), Washington

## Agenda

*Informative and Actionable*

### Conference Goals

- Develop impactful projects that increase opportunities and options for rural students, families and communities
- Deepen collaboration among Rural Alliance partners
- Strengthen Rural Alliance's collective voice

### **Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**

4:30 Registration

5:00 Dinner (provided)

6:00 Introductions and Opening Remarks  
*Kevin Jacka, Superintendent, Mary Walker School District*

6:30 Breakout Sessions

- Rural Challenges, Strengths, Commonalities, Priorities  
Participants: rural superintendents  
*Facilitator: John Glenewinkel*
- Designing a Rural Counselor Network  
(A funded project to increase rural students' sense of possibilities)  
Participants: K-12 counselors and principals, higher education, partners from education organizations, and nonprofits  
*Jacqueline Raphael, Practice Expert, and Nettie Legters, Senior Advisor, Education Northwest*

8:30 Networking Social



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# STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

THE RURAL ALLIANCE  
CONFERENCE  
JANUARY 29, 2017  
SPOKANE

# WHY A STRATEGIC PLAN?

- Alliance first convened in July 2010
- Together we defined priorities and designed solutions to the obstacles rural students face
- Together we built a sense of collegiality that has drawn new members into the Alliance.
- We partner with 66 districts 46,000+ students, 15 colleges and universities, and 22 nonprofits engaged in a continuum of services from early birth to adulthood.

# WHY A STRATEGIC PLAN?

This strategic plan is born of our sense of the Alliance's potential to persist and to reduce gaps in achievement and opportunity for rural students.

We seek a delineated plan that sets a course for capacity building and work that maintains the energetic and inclusive grassroots nature of the Rural Alliance.

# HOW?

- From June – Sept. 2016 a small number of eastern Washington rural school district superintendents met over the course of several Sunday evening and Monday morning meetings.
- Via a SWOT analysis, this team of superintendents developed the strategies, milestones, deliverables, logic model and process to obtain stakeholder feedback.

# DRAFTING TEAM...

- Aostin: Dale Bonfield
- Creston: Bill Wadington
- Lake Chelan: Barry Depaoli
- Liberty: Kyle Rydell
- Mabton: Minerva Morales
- Mary Walker: Kevin Jacka
- Northport: Don Baribault
- Odessa: Dan Read
- Reardan: Marcus Morgan
- Republic: John Glenewinkel
- Tonasket: Steve McCullough
- Valley: Kevin Foster



# WHAT WE DID...

- At the 2016 October Rural Alliance Conference, we asked for your feedback on what we had come up with.
- Over the course of the 2 day meeting – you shared your thoughts on the 5 Strategies, related milestones and deliverables.
- Via Table Talk and survey input you let us know what you thought of the effort and provided feedback.

# RURAL ALLIANCE STRATEGIES

- Strategy 1:** Continue to develop a collective voice for the Rural Alliance
- Strategy 2:** Continue to attract and build strong human capital to the Rural Alliance
- Strategy 3:** Research, Implement and sustain innovative solutions for rural challenges
- Strategy 4:** Continue to develop and nurture strong social capital
- Strategy 5:** Build an innovative structure to develop organizational capacity in the Rural Alliance

# THEN WHAT?

- After the conference we aggregated the survey responses and conducted a trend analysis of your comments. We also triangulated the survey responses with the conference evaluations.
- A small work group met on November 2<sup>nd</sup> to review that analysis and incorporate your recommendations as appropriate.
- In early December, the small work group presented the revised strategic plan with your input to the larger Superintendent Drafting team for their final approval.

# SMALL WORKING GROUP...

- Creston: Bill Wadlington
- Mabton: Minerva Morales
- Mary Walker: Kevin Jacka
- Reardan: Marcus Morgan
- Valley: Kevin Foster
- Rural Alliance : Jerry Dyar

# COMMENT SUMMARY

- How do I belong"? How does a member's voice get vetted"? How does each school weigh in on committing?
  - Partnership v membership
- Policy voice v. "political"
- Postsecondary is more inclusive v. college success
- Personalized Learning project – like, want to know more
- More specificity with deliverables – by project/fund source (i.e. counselor project – you build it)

# THE RURAL ALLIANCE

