

Brian Dabson
Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI)

Brian Dabson is the President and CEO of the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) and Co-Director of the RUPRI Center for Rural Entrepreneurship. He is also Research Professor at the Harry S. Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri, Columbia where, among other things, he teaches a graduate course in regional development policy.

Brian Dabson has over 30 years of experience in public, private, and nonprofit sectors on both sides of the Atlantic dedicated to expanding economic opportunity for low-income people and distressed communities. Recognized nationally and internationally for his work on entrepreneurship development, particularly in a rural context, he has given many keynote presentations and consultations across the United States, Europe, and India. He is also a frequent speaker and writer on rural policy and the implications of global forces on rural America.

Prior to his current appointment, Brian Dabson was President of CFED (formerly Corporation for Enterprise Development), a Washington DC-based national nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding economic opportunity through asset-building, entrepreneurship, and economic development. He held that position for 13 years. At the same time, he served two terms as President of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Forum on Social Innovations.

Before joining CFED in 1992, he was for nine years, the Managing Director of a European consulting and research organization specializing in economic development, training, and employment issues. Prior to that he worked for 13 years in metropolitan and city governments in Liverpool and Glasgow.