

Rural Development Initiatives (RDI)

Capacity Building and Rural Economic Vitality

RDI Overview

- Formed in 1989 as part of the Oregon Economic Development Department
- Privatized as an Oregon based non profit in 1991
- Building the capacity of rural leaders, community groups and collaborative partnerships
- Moving this capacity to Rural Economic Vitality (REV) action

Oregon Rural Development Council

- Formed in 1991
- RDI's role, bringing council to rural communities
- The Golden Years: 1992-2000
- Rural Oregon Day, Policy Forums
- Rekindling the ORDC

RDI Services

- Leadership Development
- Rural Economic Vitality (REV)
- Networking

Leadership Development

- Rural Futures Forum (RFF) 1992-2002
- Ford Institute Leadership Program (FILP) 2003

Overview

- Signature program of RDI in partnership with the Ford Institute for Community Building
- Initiated in spring 2003
- RDI has designed and delivered the program in 86 community hubs in Oregon, California and Walla Walla

Overview

- More than 5,000 graduates of the program
- 20+ Communities participate in the training each year
- The Ford Institute Leadership Program is delivered over five plus years
- Designed to engage more people in the community each year

Ford Institute Leadership Program

Series of trainings

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Year 5

**Leadership
Development
Training
Class 1**

**Effective
Organizations
Training**

**Leadership
Development
Training
Class 2**

**Community
Collaborations
Training**

**Leadership
Development
Training
Class 3**

Curriculum Highlights

- Appreciative Inquiry: Discovering Community Successes
- Skill Based Leadership with Project
- Community Development Models: Asset Based Community Development, 3E's
- Understanding and Working with Stakeholders
- Project Design and Action Planning
- Resource Development
- Engaging Stakeholders

Skills and tools

- Working in groups
- Effective meetings
- Managing Conflicts
- Decision making process
- Working with Volunteers

Participation & Attendance

- Cohort sizes range for 25-35
- Sessions are held in the communities
- Meet Friday afternoon and Saturdays
- One Weekend per month over 4 months
- Project completed in one year
- RDI provides ongoing support and follow-up

Rural Economic Development (REV)

- Economic Vitality Summits
- Learn By Doing
- Pasos al Exito (PAE)
- HomeTown Competitiveness (HTC)
- WealthWorks Northwest (WWNW)

Economic Vitality Summits

- Day long, locally organized
- Exploring promising practices
- Topics have included:
Revitalizing Downtowns,
Buying and Investing Locally,
Capitalizing on Tourism,
Renewable Energy, and
HomeTown Competitiveness

Learn By Doing

- Developing Funding Proposals
- 20 hours of curriculum
- Session Topics include:
Positioning Your Org, Project
Planning Tools, Budgeting,
Evaluation, Site Visits and
Pitching Your Project

Pasos al Exito (PAE)

- Financial Literacy Training
- Starting a Home Based Business
- Networking, Technical Assistance and Resources to Launch and Sustain Your Business

Hometown Competitiveness (HTC)

- Developed in the Midwest by Heartland Center for Leadership
- Four Pillars: Leadership, Philanthropy, Entrepreneurship, and Youth
- Treasure Valley in Oregon and Idaho

WealthWorks NorthWest

- Builds on Assets
- Collaborative Impact
- Links businesses and community orgs in a value chain
- Strengthens Eight Capitals:
Financial, Built,
Intellectual, Individual,
Social, Natural, Political
and Cultural

Networking

Regards to Rural

- Inform, Inspire and Celebrate
- 450 practitioners and rural leaders
- More than 50 sessions
- Regards to Rural IX, June 25-27, Riverhouse in Bend

Thank you...

...for keeping your rural
communities vital!

Craig Smith

Executive Director

Rural Development Initiatives

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