



# MOVING FORWARD

**NADO ATC 2021**

**PORTLAND, OREGON**

## **ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

**OCTOBER 16-19, 2021  
HILTON PORTLAND DOWNTOWN**



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# MOVING FORWARD

NADO ATC 2021  
PORTLAND, OREGON



## THANK YOU SPONSORS



Piedmont Triad  
Workforce Board



## REGISTRATION

*Conference registration will occur in the Plaza Level Foyer of the hotel. Stop by to pick up your conference packet and name badge.*

**Saturday, October 16:** 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday, October 17:** 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Monday, October 18:** 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, October 19:** 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

## STAY CONNECTED!

Stay connected during the conference using the free Wi-Fi throughout the conference area. Open **Hhonor**s and use Promotion Code **NADO21**.

**Tweeting about the conference?**  
Use the hashtag **#NADOATC**.



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## AICP CERTIFICATION MAINTENANCE SESSIONS

Members of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) are required to participate in education and training opportunities to earn credits and remain current with the latest trends, technologies, and best practices. NADO is a provider with the American Planning Association's (APA) AICP Certification Maintenance (CM) Program. Sessions that should meet AICP CM requirements are noted with CM after the session descriptions in the full schedule. Visit [www.planning.org/cm](http://www.planning.org/cm) to learn how to get approval for your attendance at these sessions.

## CONFERENCE LOGISTICS

- Conference sessions will be held in the Ballroom, Plaza, 3rd Floor Conference, and 23rd Floor skyline levels of the Hilton Portland Downtown:
  - Ballroom Level: Grand Ballroom
  - Plaza Level: Conference registration, Networking Nook, Atrium and Pavillion ballrooms, and Broadway rooms.
  - 3rd Floor Conference Level: Studio, Council, Directors, Executive, and Forum suites
  - 23rd Floor Skyline Level: Skyline rooms
- Conference room temperatures vary; we suggest you layer your clothing and adjust as needed.
- The conference is meant to be a comfortable training experience for attendees, and business casual dress is encouraged except for the President's Award Dinner, which is business attire.

## ATC 2021 CONFERENCE AND COVID-19

Planning a conference during a global pandemic has presented various challenges, and we ask attendees to bear with us as the conference schedule may change based on evolving local, state, and national (CDC) health guidelines and protocols. In addition, we will be informed by the Hilton of any changes in safety protocols as determined by their corporate office.

The State of Oregon has implemented a face mask mandate in all indoor spaces, and for certain outdoor events, regardless of vaccination status. All ATC conference attendees and speakers are required to wear a face mask throughout the conference, except during meal functions. If you need a face mask during the conference please stop by the conference registration desk. If you are not feeling well during the conference, we ask that you do not attend sessions.

# DEAR NADO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Welcome to Portland and NADO's 2021 Annual Training Conference, *Moving Forward*. I am thrilled that we are able to meet in person for the first time in nearly two years! On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your ongoing support of NADO. We are pleased that so many members have traveled to Portland for this conference—especially as we all continue to navigate the reality of living during a global pandemic. We are all truly moving forward.

Planning a conference during a global pandemic presents some challenges, but I think you will agree we have managed to plan another top-notch event. Along with the mandate for masks during indoor events such as the ATC, we have worked with the hotel to plan adequate distancing during sessions and meals. There will be an abundance of hand sanitizer and face masks at the conference registration area.

Nearly 30 learning opportunities are offered throughout the conference. Plenary, breakout, and listening sessions, learning labs, conversation cafés, and a mobile workshop will cover a plethora of topics: broadband, workforce development, housing, RDO relevance and impact, regional resilience, CEDS, brownfields, public relations, strategic planning, nurturing leaders, board roles, and much more!

New to the ATC this year: a Networking Nook, DIY Mobile Workshops, and a 2021 Impact Award Selfie Wall. Please stop by the Networking Nook on Saturday and Sunday to catch up with friends, charge your mobile phone, and enjoy a refreshing beverage. Challenges with planning mobile workshops during a pandemic resulted in a creative approach for attendees to learn about exciting businesses and projects within walking distance of the Hilton; stop by the conference registration desk or visit the ATC page at [www.nado.org](http://www.nado.org) for details about the DIY Mobile Workshops. To assure safe distancing, this year's Impact Awardees will be able to take selfies in front of a NADO banner and next to a 2021 Impact Award Winner sign.

The NADO Board of Directors encourages all NADO members to participate in two opportunities to learn more about our organization's governance and operations: the 2021 Annual Business Meeting on Tuesday afternoon which will be followed immediately by the Board of Directors meeting.

For those new to NADO or to the ATC, please join NADO leadership and staff for NADO 101 to learn more about the programs and services NADO is currently engaged in to promote and enhance regional development across the nation. The Young Professional Meetup provides a casual atmosphere to connect with peers. During the 2021 Impact Award Reception you will be able to learn about many of this year's winning projects.

I want to thank Three Rivers Planning and Development District (MS), New Mexico Association of Regional Councils, Piedmont Triad Regional Council (NC), Piedmont Triad Workforce Board (NC), and Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service for their support of this conference.

Thank you for your continued support of NADO.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. R. Byrd". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**KEVIN BYRD, NADO PRESIDENT**

*Executive Director, New River Valley  
Regional Commission, Radford, VA*





# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16TH

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Conference Registration** ..... Plaza Level Foyer

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**NADO Research Foundation Advisory Committee Meeting** ..... Skyline III

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

**NADO Research Foundation Board & Executive Committee Meetings** ..... Skyline III

1:30 – 5:00 p.m.

**Networking Nook** ..... Plaza Level Foyer

Too early to check into your room? Come to the Networking Nook to charge your phone, enjoy some refreshments, check your messages, meet new colleagues, and catch up with old friends.

*Sponsored by Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service, Athens, OH.*

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

**Learning Lab  
CEDS Speed Networking Session** ..... Broadway 1

During this interactive speed networking session, you will have the opportunity to share more about your CEDS, troubleshoot challenges, and learn how others are approaching the process — all during short one-on-one conversations with your peers. CM 2

Facilitator: **Ciara Ristig**, Senior Program Manager, NADO, Washington, DC

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

**NADO 101: Introduction to YOUR Membership Association** ..... Broadway III/IV

Whether you are a new NADO member, first time ATC attendee, interested in joining NADO, or curious to learn more about NADO, stop by this session to meet and hear from staff and leadership about current programs, legislative strategies, and much more.

Facilitator: **Joe McKinney**, Executive Director, NADO, Washington, DC

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

**NADO Board of Directors Reception for New Board Members, New NADO Members, and New Executive Directors** ..... Skyline I/II

All new NADO Board of Director members, new NADO members, and new executive directors of member organizations are invited to meet the NADO Board of Directors and staff. Take in the amazing view from the top floor of the Hilton as you enjoy beverages and hors d'oeuvres.

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Young Professional Meetup** ..... Hop City Tavern in Hilton Lobby

You asked, and we deliver! After a short hiatus, the Young Professional Meetup is back. NADO will provide appetizers during this cash bar meetup, and you provide the conversations with your peers.

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17TH

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Conference Registration** ..... Plaza Level Foyer

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Networking Nook** ..... Plaza Level Foyer

Too early to check into your room? Come to the Networking Nook to charge your phone, enjoy some refreshments, check your messages, meet new colleagues, and catch up with old friends.

*Sponsored by Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service, Athens, OH.*

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

**Learning Lab  
Brownfields Redevelopment to Support Growing and Diversified Economies** ..... Broadway III

Brownfields offer tremendous potential and opportunities that include improving quality of life, the environment, and a future that is prosperous and sustainable for communities. Learn how key partners, various resources, and funding sources are leveraged throughout the brownfields process to realize successful redevelopment, and hear what it takes to assemble all the components to enhance communities with new housing, food establishments, and other build outs. CM 1.5

**Ignacio Dayrit**, Program Director, Center for Creative Land Recycling (TAB), Berkeley, CA

**Blase Leven**, Director, KSU Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB), Manhattan, KS

**Sean Vroom**, Director, NJIT Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB), Newark, NJ

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Learning Lab**

**Branding and Public Relations for RDOs** .....Broadway IV  
Does your RDO have a handle on who you are, your value to the region, and how best to convey that value to your audiences? If not, it's time to really take a hard look at your branding and PR and learn how you can integrate both into your organization's DNA, building value and credibility along the way.

**Erica Allison**, CEO, PR + Brand Strategist, Formation PR + Brand, Hendersonville, NC

12:30 – 3:15 p.m.

**Mobile Workshop**

**Portland Brownfields**.....Hilton Lobby  
This bus and walking tour will visit sites at various stages of redevelopment that are being repurposed to provide jobs, services, amenities, and housing. There will be opportunities to get off the bus to experience what keeps Portland weird and the economy going: food pods, brew pubs, design sense, Voodoo Doughnuts, and McMenamins. You will stop at the South Waterfront—a medical services and education node, with new housing, transit, infrastructure, and services that resulted from strong partnerships—to learn about the area's development and infrastructure, including Zidell Yards, Oregon Health Sciences University, transit-oriented development, and the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry. CM 2

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

**Learning Lab**

**Strategic Planning Moving Forward**.....Broadway I/II  
As regional development organizations move forward in a world that largely continues to grapple with the impacts of a global pandemic, strategic planning looks and feels quite different. RDOs are creating new approaches to program and service delivery, at the same time as they are re-structuring their internal operations... from office design to technology and everything in between. This workshop will take a close look at how overall strategic planning and thinking will help them develop plans for moving forward.

**David Beurle**, CEO, Future iQ, Minneapolis, MN

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

**Learning Lab**

**A Creative and Arts-Based Approach to Equitable Recovery** .....Broadway III  
Art-Train is a virtual technical assistance program that is free for artists everywhere and low cost for municipal agencies, community non-profits, and arts councils. It translates American Rescue Plan Local Fiscal Recovery Fund guidelines and shares arts-based approaches to

build locally rooted collaborations that address critical recovery and rebuilding needs including workforce development, economic growth, public health, housing, infrastructure, and civic engagement. During this session, participants will learn how to navigate and advocate for ARP flexible funding as a means to rebuild equity-centered civic and economic vitality and gain skills to frame and translate their recovery goals into formats that will be supported by multiple funding sources. CM 2  
**Michael Rohd**, Artist for Civic Imagination, Center for Performance and Civic Practice, Phoenix, AZ  
**Jun-Li Wang**, Associate Director, Programs, Springboard for the Arts, St. Paul, MN (virtual)

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

**Learning Lab**

**Effective Communication Tools for RDOs** ...Broadway IV  
RDOs are natural problem solvers, conveners, and facilitators. They can also be very quiet about the value they bring to their regions. Take some time to get to know the top communication tools that will move your RDO from “who are they again?” to “let's call our RDO...” top of mind level awareness.

**Erica Allison**, CEO, PR + Brand Strategist, Formation PR + Brand, Hendersonville, NC

3:45 – 5:15 p.m.

**NADO Membership Regional Caucus Meetings**

All NADO members are encouraged to attend their regional caucus to talk about issues of importance to your regions and to NADO.

- Central.....Studio Suite
- East..... Council Suite
- Midwest ..... Forum Suite
- Southeast..... Skyline II
- Southwest.....Directors Suite
- West .....Executive Suite

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

**Opening Reception**.....Pavillion Ballroom

The reception is the ideal occasion to catch up with your peers from across the country. Plan to meet new colleagues and renew friendships with ones you haven't seen in a couple years. Heads up: NADO will provide appetizers and beverages, but if you are planning to dine with peers afterwards, we suggest you make reservations in advance.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 18TH**

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Conference Registration** ..... Plaza Level Foyer

7:30 – 8:15 a.m.

**DDAA Breakfast**.....Pavillion Ballroom  
All attendees from the ARC-designated LDDs are invited to attend this breakfast and hear from DDAA and ARC leadership.

8:30 – 8:45 a.m.

**Conference Commencement**.....Grand Ballroom  
**Kevin Byrd**, President, NADO, and Executive Director, New River Valley Regional Commission, Radford, VA

8:45 – 10:00 a.m.

**Opening Plenary: Regional Economies in a Pandemic World**.....Grand Ballroom

The COVID-19 global pandemic caused significant shifts and changes to all sectors of society, including the economy, at all levels of engagement. But how does that correspond to regional economies? What trends should RDOs expect in the future, both immediate and long range? How will the challenges—and opportunities—presented to RDOs since March 2020 affect your work, and the regions you serve in general? This session will take a look at how the global economy is responding to the pandemic and then drill down to address trends and changes that regional and local economies might expect and how they can respond, whether proactively or reactively. CM 1.5

*Sponsored by Three Rivers Planning and Development District, Pontotoc, MS*

**David Beurle**, CEO, Future iQ, Minneapolis, MN

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

**Networking Break**.....Plaza Level Foyer

10:15 – 11:45 a.m.

**Concurrent Sessions**

**Embracing Change and Strengthening Communities in Rural America**.....Broadway I/II

Learn how a group of committed, caring, and passionate residents of St. James, MN, chose to embrace the changing population demographic in their small town as an opportunity instead of a problem. In the process of getting to know one another's stories and working on projects designed to recognize and celebrate the diverse cultural heritage of the town's residents, trusting relationships formed that have built bridges between diverse community members, creating a more welcoming community for all. CM 1.25

**Alejandra Bejarano**, Economic Recovery Planner, Region Nine Development Commission, Mankato, MN

**Sue Harris**, Community Education Director, St. James, MN

**Pat Branstad**, Uniting Cultures/Uniendo Culturas Facilitator, St. James, MN

Introduction: **Nicole Griensewic**, Executive Director, Region Nine Regional Commission, Mankato, MN

**The American Rescue Plan Act:**

**What are the RDO Roles?** .....Broadway III/IV

The American Rescue Plan Act (APRA) includes the \$350 billion State and Local Fiscal Relief Fund which distributes federal assistance to all states, tribal governments, and general purpose local governments nationwide. While RDOs do not receive a direct allocation themselves, their member governments do. There are a number of ways that RDOs may become involved with Fiscal Relief Funds: being a subrecipient of funds transferred from a direct recipient; being a paid contractor providing services to a direct recipient; or being a provider of technical assistance helping direct recipients to administer their allocation. Performing any of these roles requires a basic knowledge of ARPA requirements and of the resources available to manage these relationships. This session will help you gain that up-to-date knowledge.

**Bob Lloyd**, Principal, Robert M. Lloyd Consulting Services, Greenville, SC

**RDO Board Member Conversation Café**..... Council Suite

Board members of regional organizations should attend this session to network with one another about their roles and responsibilities as regional leaders. This facilitated discussion session will give RDO board members the chance to discuss what the most pressing issues are for their communities and how their regional organizations are able to support them. Board members can talk about the unique roles they play in setting the organization's priorities and direction, how they work to ensure fiscal sustainability and responsible resource management, and how they see themselves as organizational ambassadors throughout the region. Discussion Leader: **Mayor Arthur Green**, Elkton, KY, Pennyrile Area Development District Board Member, Hopkinsville, KY

**Conversation Café: New and Rising**

**Executive Directors Roundtable** ..... Forum Suite

Designed to be a conversation among peers, this café is aimed at RDO staff who are in the pipeline to become an executive director, or executive directors that are relatively new to the position. There is no agenda—participants can talk about common issues and concerns they are facing, share ideas and suggestions for overcoming challenges, offer lessons learned along their trajectory to a leadership position, and tap into the expertise of their peers.

Discussion Leader: **Eric Day**, Executive Director, Mid Minnesota Regional Development Commission, Willmar, MN



12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

**Plenary Luncheon** ..... Grand Ballroom

Welcome: **Chris Fetzer**, Second Vice President, NADO, and Executive Director, Northern Arizona Council of Governments, Flagstaff, AZ

**Alejandra Castillo**, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, Washington, DC

1:45 – 3:15 p.m.

**Concurrent Sessions**

**Tourism and Recreation**.....Broadway I/II

Tourism and recreation have become mainstay industries in many parts of the country and were affected differently as a result of the pandemic. While tourism may have declined, outdoor recreation became an escape for both urban and rural residents. Come and learn how members are addressing the impacts of COVID-19 and planning for the future of their regions. CM 1.25

**Jessica Metta**, Executive Director, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District, The Dalles, OR

**Chad Eggen**, Executive Director, Boonslick Regional Planning Commission, Warrenton, MO

**Elijah Sharp**, Deputy Executive Director, New River Valley Regional Commission, Radford, VA

Moderator: **Michelle Carroll**, Deputy Executive Director, Mountainland, Orem, UT

**Grant Audit Readiness in a**

**Pandemic Environment**.....Broadway III/IV

The massive amounts of federal assistance made available under the Coronavirus Assistance Relief and Economic Stability (CARES) Act and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) have ratcheted up federal government concerns about grant accountability. Congress reflected these concerns by significantly increasing the budgets of the federal inspectors general whose jobs are to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse in federal programs. But the first lines of defense that those federal auditors rely upon are the single audits that most federal grant recipients and subrecipients must arrange. The independent auditors who conduct those audits get their instructions from the Compliance Supplement, a hefty audit guide issued annually by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. The Supplement identifies the grant requirements that must be tested and suggests ways for the auditors to determine compliance. So, those features clearly demonstrate to recipients and subrecipients, like RDOs, what to expect when single audits begin. This session will drill down on the sections of the Supplement that affect federal programs that most RDOs administer and will demonstrate how to be audit ready in this highly charged grant audit environment.

**Bob Lloyd**, Principal, Robert M. Lloyd Consulting Services, Greenville, SC

Moderator: **Cindy Hultz**, Executive Director, Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments, Perry, MO

**A Brighter Energy Future for Regions: An Introduction to SolSmart’s Regional**

**Organization Pathway**..... Council Suite

Solar is becoming an increasingly popular option for communities and regions looking to diversify their energy supply, especially as the price of solar installations has continued to decrease. The SolSmart team works free of charge with communities and regions around the country to obtain Gold, Silver, and Bronze designations by incorporating best practices for solar planning, zoning, permitting, and inspection. This session will provide an overview of the SolSmart program and its benefits and highlight how regional development organizations can participate in the process and achieve designation. CM 1.25

**Andrew Light**, Program Manager, Interstate Renewable Energy Council, Washington, DC

Introduction: **Chris Rietow**, Executive Director, Apalachee Regional Planning Council, Tallahassee, FL

**Conversation Café: Executive Director Roundtable Discussion about the**

**Post-Pandemic Workplace**..... Forum Suite

The COVID-19 global pandemic caused many RDOs to change their office operations drastically. How did RDOs change the way they do their work? What have been the impacts, both positive and negative? Join your peers for a candid conversation about how your organizations responded to the pandemic, lessons learned, and how you are moving forward.

Discussion Leader: **Dave Doran**, Executive Director, Southeast Idaho Council of Governments, Pocatello, ID

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.

**Networking Break**..... Plaza Level Foyer

3:30 – 4:45 p.m.

**Concurrent Sessions**

**Workforce Development**.....Broadway I/II

A strong workforce is inclusive and provides opportunities for all residents seeking employment and opportunities for growth. Learn from colleagues that have developed promising workforce development programs tailored to their communities that tap into local and regional assets to target a diverse group of individuals. CM 1.25

**Joe Barker**, Executive Director, Southwest Tennessee Development District, Jackson, TN

**Judge Steve Henry**, Webster County, KY, and Secretary, Green River Area Development District, Owensboro, KY

**Terry Treadaway**, Director of Workforce Development, Three Rivers Planning and Development District, Pontotoc, MS

Moderator: **Matt McCauley**, CEO, Networks Northwest, Traverse City, MI

## Nurturing Leadership in Rural

**Communities** .....Broadway III/IV

A critical component of a strong and inclusive rural economy is a cadre of strategic and collaborative leaders at the local and regional levels. Creating an environment that nurtures leadership will have long term impacts on a region's economic sustainability and vibrance. Building leadership capacity will promote economic growth powered and strengthened by the unique needs and assets of each community. This interactive session will offer ideas for nurturing leaders in your communities. CM 1.25

**Nathan Ohle**, CEO, Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Washington, DC

## Conversation Café: Affordable and Workforce Housing

.....Council Suite

Without affordable and workforce housing, regions can be at a disadvantage when recruiting new businesses or encouraging existing businesses to expand, attracting residents to the region, or meeting current residents' housing needs. In some regions, housing is not appropriate for the area's workforce, while in other regions, there may be a location mismatch between available housing and jobs or essential services. RDOs take on a variety of roles as they work to create housing opportunities. Join this discussion-focused session to share your challenges or strategies and learn from your peers. CM 1.25

Discussion Leader: **Tom Bliss**, Executive Director, Southeast Nebraska Development District, Lincoln, NE

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

## NADO Nominating Committee Meeting

.....Skyline III  
The Nominating Committee will interview candidates for Officers. The meeting is open to all NADO Members.

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

## 2021 Impact Awards Reception

.....Grand Ballroom  
Join recipients of the 2021 Impact Awards to learn more about their projects over beverages and light snacks. Fill out your raffle card by visiting with your peers to be eligible to win exciting prizes and gifts.

# TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19TH

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Conference Registration** .....Plaza Level Foyer

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

## Concurrent Sessions

### CEDS, Resilience, and Recovery

**Showcase, Part 1** .....Broadway I/II

As events over the past several years make all-too-clear, regions need to be better prepared to anticipate, withstand, and recover from multiple types of shocks and disruptions. Resilience planning and recovery will require regions to think creatively in the face of new and

emerging threats. This two-part showcase will highlight different examples of how regions across the country have responded to current challenges in creative and collaborative ways by enhancing their CEDS process, embracing resilience planning, addressing climate change, and forging new partnerships. CM 1.25

**Deb Smith**, Regional Economic Development Planner, Clearwater Economic Development Association, Lewiston, ID

**Lee Umphrey**, Executive Director, Eastern Maine Development Corporation, Bangor, ME

**Dorothy Jackson**, Regional and Economic Development Manager, Heart of Texas Council of Governments, Waco, TX

Moderator: **Ciara Ristig**, Senior Program Manager, NADO, Washington, DC

## RDO Relevance and

**Return on Investment** .....Broadway III/IV

Join RDO leaders to hear how organizations are ensuring that their work is relevant and stays relevant to community needs. Also learn how RDOs are communicating their impacts to members, partners, and stakeholders. Bring your own insights and questions to this interactive session.

**Sheryl Gonzales**, Executive Director, Western Nevada Development District, Carson City, NV

**Brett Doney**, President & CEO, Great Falls Development Authority, Great Falls, MT

Moderator: **Lee Worsley**, Executive Director, Triangle J Council of Governments, Durham, NC

## Listening Session: Tackling Your Unique

**Regional Challenges** .....Forum Suite

As NADO's government relations team prepares its advocacy strategy for the coming months, they want to hear from NADO members directly about the most critical and pressing challenges you are facing in your communities. Join this listening session to share both your ideas and your concerns with NADO staff as well as your peers from other regions. Learn how other regions are addressing similar challenges, either through creative problem-solving or through the pursuit of legislative solutions.

**Joe McKinney**, Executive Director, NADO, Washington, DC

**Mirielle Burgoyne**, Deputy Executive Director/Director of Government Relations, NADO, Washington, DC

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

**Networking Break** .....Plaza Level Foyer

10:15 – 11:45 a.m.

**Concurrent Sessions**



## **CEDS, Resilience, and Recovery**

### **Showcase, Part 2**.....Broadway I/II

This is the second half of a two-part showcase highlighting different examples of how regions across the country have responded to the current challenges of our time in creative and collaborative ways by enhancing their CEDS process, embracing resilience planning, addressing climate change, and forging new partnerships. CM 1.25

**Robert Venables**, Executive Director, Southeast Conference, Juneau, AK

**Emily Martinez**, Director of Regional Economic Development, Coastal Bend Council of Governments, Corpus Christi, TX

**Alison Turner**, Economic Development Planner, North Central New Mexico Economic Development District, Santa Fe, NM

Moderator: **Ciara Ristig**, Senior Program Manager, NADO, Washington, DC

### **Expanding Broadband**.....Broadway III/IV

Fast and reliable broadband service is a critical resource for regional economic development, growing and sustaining local businesses, and improving overall quality of life in communities. Developing broadband infrastructure and influencing policy have become increasingly important since the onset of the pandemic. Learn from members who will share promising practices from communities working to develop and assure coverage throughout the country. CM 1.25

**Sam Miller**, Development Director, Buckeye Hills Regional Council, Marietta, OH

**Jim Baldwin**, Executive Director, Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission, Lebanon, VA

**David Cleveland**, Executive Director, East Texas Council of Governments, Kilgore, TX

Moderator: **Monique Boulet**, CEO, Acadiana Planning Commission, Lafayette, LA

### **Listening Session: Aligning EDDs with State Economic Development Planning**..... Forum Suite

The Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness (CREC) is partnering with the NADO Research Foundation and other organizations to better coordinate state and regional economic development planning efforts, including addressing challenges and opportunities for aligning the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) with state economic development plans. Join this discussion to learn more and share your experiences and input to help guide this multi-year project that will support NADO members and their state partners with training, resources, and networking.

**Bob Isaacson**, Senior VP, Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness, Arlington, VA

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

### **Lunch on Your Own**

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

### **Closing Plenary Session: Advocacy During Unprecedented Times**..... Grand Ballroom

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the “unprecedented” nature of the pandemic was a constant refrain. In the months since, Congress has bestowed unprecedented levels of resources upon communities in an effort to help them recover. Join this session for a detailed recap of the funding programs that are available to NADO members, and to hear predictions about additional resources that may become available in the weeks and months ahead. This session will also include discussion of NADO’s recent legislative victories; how you can advocate more effectively for your region’s needs during these times; and how you can prepare to participate in advocacy efforts during NADO’s Washington Conference in March 2022.

**Mirielle Burgoyne**, Deputy Executive Director/Director of Government Relations, NADO, Washington, DC

**Mark Dedrick**, Partner, Summit Strategies, Washington, DC

**Michael Higdon**, Principal, A1.9 Strategies, Washington, DC

Moderator: **Misty Crosby**, First Vice President, NADO, and Executive Director, Buckeye Hills Regional Council, Marietta, OH

2:30 – 2:45 p.m.

### **Networking Break**..... Plaza Level Foyer

2:45 – 5:15 p.m.

### **Annual Business Meeting**..... Atrium Ballroom

### **NADO Board of Directors Meeting**..... Broadway

All NADO members are encouraged to attend each meeting. The Board will convene immediately after conclusion of the Annual Business Meeting.

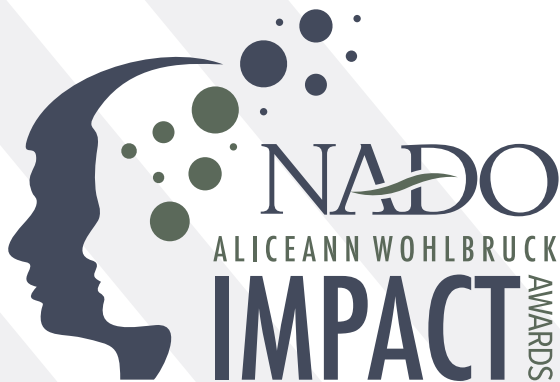
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

### **President’s Award Dinner**..... Grand Ballroom

Cash bar will open at 6:30 p.m.; the President’s Award Dinner will commence at 7:00 p.m.

# CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

FOR WINNERS OF NADO'S  
2021 ALICEANN WOHLBRUCK  
IMPACT AWARDS AND THE  
2021 PHOTO CONTEST!



The Aliceann Wohlbruck NADO Impact Awards program honors NADO members for their creative approaches to advancing regional economic development and improved quality of life. These projects have made significant impacts on their regions and demonstrate the diversity of services and program delivery provided by regional development organizations across the country. The 2021 class of awardees consists of 102 projects from 70 organizations spanning 24 states. Visit [nado.org/2021\\_impactawards](https://nado.org/2021_impactawards) for a full list of the winners and for a link to the 2021 Story Map.

Learn more about winning projects at the **Impact Awards Reception on Monday, October 18, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom**, and have chance to win a raffle prize! Check your registration envelope for your personalized raffle card.



**PHOTO**  
CONTEST

The **2021 Photo Contest** provides an opportunity for NADO members to tell the story of their regions through images that capture the people and places that make their communities wonderful places to live, work, and play. Each year, members submit photos that showcase their work to build vibrant regions, strengthen the built and natural environments, invest in their region's economy, and sustain their communities. This year also included a special category on COVID-19 response and recovery. All photos submitted for the contest this year will be shown during the Opening Reception on Sunday, October 17, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the Pavillion Ballroom.

## 2020 – 2021 NADO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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**Misty Crosby**, First Vice President, Buckeye Hills Regional Council (Marietta, OH)

**Chris Fetzer**, Second Vice President, Northern Arizona Council of Governments (Flagstaff, AZ)

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**Scott Koons**, Immediate Past President, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (Gainesville, FL)

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The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) works to strengthen America's local governments, communities, and economies through the regional strategies, partnerships, and solutions of the nation's network of 520 regional development organizations.

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