



**May 22, 2019**  
**Leon Levine Hall**  
**Boone, NC**



Presenting Sponsors

### Registration

- 8:00 am – 9:00 am – Registration, Continental Breakfast, Networking at Levine Hall
  - Free parking available at Levine Hall. Registration will take place inside the back entrance on the main floor. *Sponsored by Peak Insurance Group*

### Morning Keynote Session

- 9:00 am -10:00 am – **Opening Remarks & Morning Keynote**
  - Lecture Auditorium on Main Floor
    - Welcome to Boone – David Jackson, President/CEO, Boone Area Chamber of Commerce
    - Welcome to Appalachian State – Dr. Marie Huff, Dean of Beaver College of Health Sciences
    - Sustaining Success Through Transition – Talia Freeman, Beech Mountain Resort
    - Morning Keynote - Christopher Chung, President/CEO, Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina – *introduced by Edward Hinson, Chief Marketing & Sales Officer, Skyline/Skybest*
  - 10:00 – 10:30 – **Break** – *Sponsored by Appalachian Regional Healthcare System*

**Breakout Panel Discussions** (attendees will be broken into groups and will have the opportunity to attend each panel)

- 10:30 am – Noon – **Breakout Panel Discussion 1**
  - *Beyond Borders* –
  - *May the Force Stay with You*
  - *Build Your Future*
- Noon – 12:45 – **Lunch** – *Sponsored by Appalachian Commercial Real Estate, Master of Business Administration program in the Walker College of Business, and Watauga County EDC*

## Afternoon Keynote Session

- 12:45 pm – 1:45 pm – **Afternoon Keynote**
  - Lecture Auditorium on Main Floor
    - Economic Leadership - Dr. Patricia Mitchell, CEcD – Interim MPA Program Director and Assistant Professor - Department of Government and Justice Studies, Appalachian State University
    - Afternoon Keynote - Embracing the Next Generation – George Sherrill – Chief of Staff, NC Department of Commerce – *introduced by Todd Elledge, Director of Marketing, Carolina West Wireless*
- 1:45 pm – 2:15 pm – **Break - Sponsored by LifeStore Bank**
- 2:15 pm – 3:45 pm - **Breakout Panel Discussion Session 2**
  - *Beyond Borders*
  - *May the Force Stay with You*
  - *Build Your Future*
- 3:45 pm – 4:00 pm – Closing Remarks
- 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm – Networking Reception – **Sponsored by Peak Insurance Group**

***Beyond Borders:*** Lessons learned, and opportunities shared from development-minded leaders in the region and beyond.

- [Tonya Triplett](#) – Community Development Coordinator, Town of Abingdon
- [John Ward](#) - Manager, Town of Boone
- [Bob Boyette](#) - Manager, City of Marion
- [Brantley Price](#) - Manager, Town of West Jefferson
- [Deborah Murray](#) – Executive Director, Caldwell County Economic Development

***May the Force Stay with You:*** Discussion regarding workforce development trends, employee retention and benefit strategies in the NW prosperity zone.

- [Sara Chester](#) - Project & Communications Manager, Work in Burke
- [Becky Gosky](#) – Relocation & retention coordinator, App State Human Resources
- [Jimi Combs](#) – President/CEO – Tsuga

***Build Your Future:*** Focus on talent development and trends in training/education of the workforce of tomorrow.

- [David Bennett](#) – President/CEO, EJ Victor
- [Kevin Baxter](#) – Director of Western Campus Planning, NC School of Science & Math
- [Cindy Fulbright](#) - Program Director, Catawba Valley Furniture Academy