

SUU Government Relations & Regional Services

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Utah Rural Summit set for Aug. 11 and 12 in Cedar City

CEDAR CITY — “Building Locally, Looking Globally” is the theme for the 24th annual Utah Rural Summit, scheduled for Aug. 11 and 12, 2011, at the R. Haze Hunter Conference Center on the campus of Southern Utah University.

“Global events, whether we recognize it or not, impact rural Utah and the quality of life we enjoy,” said Brian Cottam, SUU’s Interim Director of Regional Services and the Utah Center for Rural Life at SUU, host of the Summit. “This year’s Summit speakers bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to help us all better understand how rural Utah fits into and is affected by this global society.”

Keynote presentations by former Utah Sen. Robert F. Bennett and Lt. Gov. Greg Bell headline the Summit agenda. Other guest speakers will discuss economic, community development, and other rural issues during the two-day annual focus on rural life in Utah.

Additional plenary session speakers include SUU President Michael T. Benson, who served previously as President of Snow College, and Sanpete County Commissioner Spencer Cox, who currently serves as co-chair of the Governor’s Rural Partnership Board.

Robin Phelps, the foremost expert on Rural Economic Gardening, highlights Thursday afternoon’s schedule. Dallas Tonsager, U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development, has been invited to deliver Friday’s closing keynote address.

The 2011 Rural Honors Awards will be presented during lunch each day.

Breakout sessions will include diverse topics such as public lands and natural resources, energy development, renewable energy opportunities, Utah agriculture, rural economic development, community planning, higher education, and rural success stories.

In addition to SUU, the Governor’s Office of Economic Development is participating as a special co-host of this year’s Summit. Other sponsors include the Utah Center for Rural Life at SUU, the Utah School & Institutional Trust Lands Administration, Rocky Mountain Power, Utah State University Extension, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, and the Utah Science Technology and Research initiative.

Registration cost is \$105 for the full conference or \$55 for one day of conference sessions. To register, call 435-586-5455 or visit utahlinks.org/urs/. Summit attendees are encouraged to register in advance by phone or Internet as the registration fee rises to \$175 the day of the conference.

Exhibitors may rent space on a first-come, first-served basis. Booths cost \$100; they are limited to 10 by 8 feet. To rent exhibit space, contact Kathleen McDowell at mcdowell@suu.edu.