

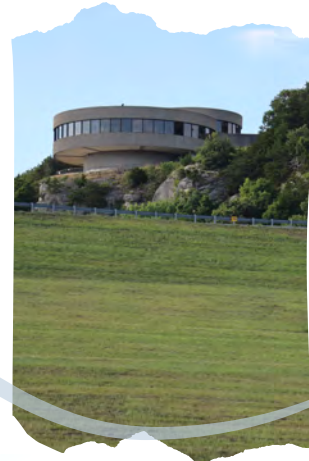
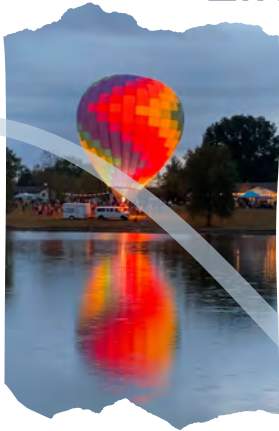


Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference

BENTON COUNTY, MO

September 19 - 21, 2023

Lincoln ♦ Cole Camp ♦ Warsaw



**CONNECTING
ENTREPRENEURIAL
COMMUNITIES**



CONNECTING ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES



Welcome to the Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (CEC) Conference 2023!

Dear CEC Attendees,

As the chair of the 2023 state organizing committee and a fellow advocate for rural economic development, I want to extend a heartfelt welcome to each of you. Your presence here in Benton County, amidst the enchanting locales of Cole Camp, Lincoln, and Warsaw, is a testament to our shared passion and dedication.

The beauty of CEC is not just in the sessions but in the vibrant tapestry of connections we weave. While networking is a cornerstone of our conference, I understand the dynamics it brings. **To those who are well-acquainted with many faces here**, I encourage you to embrace the spirit of inclusivity. Reach out and introduce someone new to your circle. **For those who might be feeling a tad out of place amidst familiar cliques**, I have been there too. Remember, every lasting connection starts with a 'hello'. Do not hesitate to initiate a conversation or join a group. You will find our community as welcoming as it is diverse.

To all my fellow extroverts, I feel you! The energy, the buzz, the continual engagement—it is exhilarating but can also be draining. I encourage everyone to make the most of our serene surroundings. Take a stroll through Cole Camp or find a quiet spot in Warsaw to reflect. These moments of solitude amidst nature can recharge you, providing the perfect balance to the bustling conference activities.

As the conference unfolds, let us keep the energy flowing online too. **Follow and engage with us on Facebook: *Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities – University of Missouri Extension***. Share your insights, photos, and experiences. Let us amplify the spirit of CEC beyond these few days!

Thank you for being here. Your presence transforms this conference from an event into an experience. Together we will spend the next two days forging new paths, creating lasting bonds, and breathing in the beauty of Benton County.

See you around the conference, and remember, every connection, every conversation counts!

Warm regards,

Annette Kendall

Chair, CEC State Team 2023

Assistant Extension Professor – Business & Innovation
University of Missouri - Columbia

Keynote Speaker



CHADWICK HIGGINS
Interim Vice Chancellor for
Extension and Engagement
University of Missouri
Interim Chief Engagement Officer
UM System

Chadwick Higgins is interim vice chancellor for extension and engagement at the University of Missouri. He also serves as interim chief engagement officer for the University of Missouri System.

In these roles since January 2023, Dr. Higgins provides leadership for continuing education programs across the state and university-wide engagement in coordination with leaders at all four system universities. He also plays a key role in evolving the land-grant mission of the university to meet the changing needs of Missourians.

Previously, Dr. Higgins served as associate vice chancellor overseeing the day-to-day programmatic and administrative components of the educational programs and initiatives for the MU Office of Extension and Engagement. He worked to support innovative, relevant programming and partnerships to solve Missouri's grand challenges related to the economy, education and health.

Before coming to Missouri, Dr. Higgins served as senior director of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. He also brings more than 20 years of extensive teaching, mentoring, curriculum development, evaluation and reporting experience from past roles at Louisiana State University, West Virginia and Idaho State universities and their extension and outreach components. He has a doctorate in higher education administration from Louisiana State University.

He and his wife, Dell, have three sons. They enjoy spending considerable time outdoors hiking, fishing and playing and also really enjoy traveling the state.

Keynote Speaker



COLONEL GORDON R. MEYER

Vice Commander
131st Bomb Wing
Whiteman Air Force Base

Col. Gordon R. Meyer serves as the Vice Commander for the 131st Bomb Wing, Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. In this capacity, he is second in command of the National Guard's only B-2 Spirit stealth bomber wing providing combat-ready Airmen for both state and federal missions. He is additionally responsible for the Air National Guard's B-2 and T-38 Talon aircraft operations.

Col. Meyer is a 1993 graduate of The Wichita State University with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology. He has an extensive background in aircraft maintenance from his time with the Kansas Air National Guard working on F-4, F-16, and B-1 aircraft. He received his commission with the Missouri Air National Guard's 139th Airlift Wing in February 1995.

In April 1995, Col. Meyer was assigned to a command position as a Drill Status Guardsman for the 139th Logistics Support Flight. April 2002 joined the Advanced Airlift Tactics Training Center. During this time, he initiated the development and execution of the AATTC Night Vision Goggle Ground Operations Course in direct support to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Col. Meyer moved to the 139th Maintenance Group in 2005 and eventually commanded at the flight, squadron, and group levels, supervising maintenance of C-130H aircraft. He deployed in support of operations Coronet Oak, Southern Watch, and several times for Operations Enduring Freedom. As the 139th Mission Support Group Commander, he participated in the initial planning and established ground support requirements for both the C-130H Weapons Instructor Course and the first ANG Open Skies Treaty location. Col. Meyer re-energized the Base Master Plan for the 139AW, setting the unit on course for relocation and expansion of all wing facilities. Col. Meyer then served as the Director of Staff for the Missouri Air National Guard and was the full time Air Advisor to the Adjutant General and the Assistant Adjutant General - Air. He was also responsible for MONG Air Staff Oversight and planning for utilization of MOANG resources for domestic operations. Prior to his current position, the colonel served as the Vice Commander, 139th Airlift Wing, Rosecrans Municipal Airport, St. Joseph, Missouri.

Keynote Speaker



ROB RUSSELL

Senior Program Director
University of Missouri Extension
Business & Communities Program

Rob Russell is an Assistant Extension Professor at the University of Missouri and serves at the Senior Program Director of University of Missouri Extension's Business & Communities Program. In this role, he provides leadership for Extension's programs in Business Development, Community Development, Labor and Workforce Development, and Regional Economic Development.

Prior to moving into this role, he has served as the Education Director of Extension's Labor and Workforce Development Program. His academic work focuses broadly on workforce issues facing the state of Missouri, including workforce trends and the ways communities and businesses can tackle those trends; labor and employment law; and Extension's role in workforce development.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Geography from the University of Missouri; a Master's in Geography from the University of Alabama; and a PhD in Geography from the University of Iowa.

September 19, 2023

5:30-7:30 PM	Pre-Event-Drenon Ranch Arena-Lincoln Welcome-Steve Daleske, Benton County Presiding Commissioner Welcome-Glen Nelson, Mayor of Lincoln
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September 20, 2023

10:30-11:00 AM	Registration & Check In-RiOak Loft-Cole Camp
11:00 AM	Lunch
11:15-11:30 AM	Opening Welcome-Annette Kendall, Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference Chair
11:30-11:40 AM	Photo Flood-Patty Cantrell and Jason Gray
11:40 AM-12:20 PM	Opening Keynote-Chad Higgins, University of Missouri's Associate Vice Chancellor for Extension and Engagement "All Together Different: Igniting Community Transformation through Collaboration and Innovation"
12:20-12:30 PM	Benton County Welcome-Robert Meuschke, Mayor of Cole Camp, and "Benton County-How We Got Here"
12:30-1:00 PM	Move to breakout sessions
12:30-12:45 PM	Raising of the Festbaum with the German Singers (52 Hwy and N. Maple)

Breakout Session 1

	Session	1A	1B	1C	1D	1E
		Location	Handel Haus	Wine, Antiques & More	Wine, Women & Song	The German Table
1:00-1:45 PM	Presentation	Financing Your Small Business	Igniting a Passion to Make a Difference in Your Community	Community College Partnerships That Make a Regional Impact	Photo Flood: A Fun Way to Build Entrepreneurial Communities	The Top 5 Impacts of Community Success
	Speaker	Mark Christian	Suzie Brodersen	Amy Jackson and Kelly Asbury	Patty Cantrell and Jason Gray	Christel Gollnick and Rachel Kagay

1:45-2:15 PM Networking and moving to the next breakout session

Breakout Session 2


	Session	2A	2B	2C	2D	2E
		Location	Handel Haus	Wine, Antiques & More	Wine, Women & Song	The German Table
2:15-3:00 PM	Presentation	Think Globally, Act Locally	All Together Different: Co-Mo Connect's Answer to Rural Broadband Deployment	Points of Focus for Building Community Entrepreneurship	ABC's of a Thriving Community 2.0 (DIY Edition)	Individual Differences and Shared Community Networks
	Speaker	Ray Hall	Josh Merrill	Chelsea Corkins and Lorin Fahrmeier	Jo Ann Lane, Lynette Stokes, and Amie Breshears	Marilyn Schlake and Cheryl Burkhardt-Kriesel

3:00-3:30 PM Networking and moving to the next breakout session-**Head to Wine, Antiques & More for your afternoon snack** (Calgaro's pizza and slushies)

Breakout Session 3						
Session	3A	3B	3C	3D	3E	
3:30-4:15 PM	Location	Handel Haus	Wine, Antiques & More	Wine, Women & Song	The German Table	RiOak Loft
	Presentation	ARPA Update and Lessons Learned About Partnerships and Community Through COVID	Entrepreneurial Evolution	Unexpected Partnerships	Dreaming Big and Gathering Many Voices in Rural Placemaking	Grow Your Business Online
	Speaker	Darla Campbell	Annette Kendall (moderator), Sam Cole, Judy Smasal, Jennifer Flores, Lacey Smallwood	Stephen Zeller	Christel Gollnick and Steve Wenger	Ashley Raetz

4:15-5:30 PM Drive time and check into lodging

Join us for our evening social and networking event!
 September 20 5:30 PM-7:00 PM



Harry S Truman Dam Visitor's Center
 29027 Visitor Center Road
 Warsaw, MO 65355

Don't forget to participate in all the great contests at this year's
 CEC Conference!
 Win prizes AND bragging rights!

**Photo Flood – Coffee Crawl –
 Shop Benton County**

September 21, 2023

7:30-8:30 AM

Breakfast-Warsaw Community Building
Welcome-Eddie Simons, Mayor of Warsaw

8:00-8:30 AM

Breakfast Speaker-GORDON R. MEYER, Col, MOANG, Deputy Commander, 131st Bomb Wing, Whiteman AFB, MO

8:35 AM

Group Photo (VanBuren Street at the Courthouse)

8:40-9:00 AM

Networking and moving to the next breakout session

Breakout Session 4

	Session	4A	4B	4C	4D	4E
	Location	Yellow Deli	Creative Palette	The Landing	Main Event	Side Quest
9:00-9:45 AM	Presentation	How Do You "Do" Economic Development?	Fill Your Entrepreneur Pipeline	Empowering Rural Neurodivergent Youth Through Entrepreneurial Mindset Development	Leveraging Your Local Library for Your Workforce and Small Businesses	Emerging Opportunities in Energy
	Speaker	Alan Spell and Luke Dietterle	Patty Cantrell and Sheridan Garman-Neeman	Annette Kendall	Mel Lambert and Katy Pattison	Adrienne Ohler and Josh Campbell

9:45-10:15 AM

Networking and moving to the next breakout session

Breakout Session 5

	Session	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E
	Location	Yellow Deli	Creative Palette	The Landing	Main Event	Side Quest
10:15-11:00 AM	Presentation	All Together Different: Q & A with Benton County Elected Officials	765 Alive: Intergenerational Awareness of Differences and Similarities	Teamwork Makes the Dreamwork	Missouri Municipal League: Strengthening Cities Through Unity and Cooperation	Leveraging Workforce Assessments to Improve Occupation Training in Rural Communities: A Case Study
	Speaker	Amie Breshears (moderator), Mayor Eddie Simons, Mayor Bob Meuschke, Mayor Glen Nelson, and Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske	Christel Gollnick and Jackie Spainhower	Teresa Heckenlively, Ron Hogan, Dave Gover, Lila Foster, and Margaret Hogan	Tom Oldham	Rob O'Brian and Robert Harrington

11:00-11:15 AM

Move to closing session

11:15 AM-12:15 PM	Luncheon (Turn in Shop Benton County Receipts and Coffee Crawl Cards)-Warsaw Community Building
12:15-12:30 PM	Resolutions-Senator Sandy Crawford and Representative Rodger Reedy
12:30-1:00 PM	Closing Keynote-Rob Russell, Senior Program Director, Business & Communities Program, MU Extension: Lessons for Moving Forward
1:00-1:15 PM	Photo Flood Winner Announced Winners of Shop Benton County, Coffee Crawl, and final door prizes
1:15 PM	Announcement of the 2024 CEC Conference Location

Shop Benton County
DURING THE CEC SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2023

For a chance to win some benjamins!
 Receipts can either be shown or turned in the last day of the conference at the Warsaw Community Building for your chance to win! Drawing will be held after the closing keynote.
You must be present to win.

CONNECTING ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES
 Extension

Your Feedback Shapes Our Future: The CEC Feedback Survey

The magic of the Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities conference lies not just in the sessions you attend, but also in the feedback you provide. We are dedicated to continuous improvement, and your insights play a pivotal role in enhancing our future events.

How Does It Work?

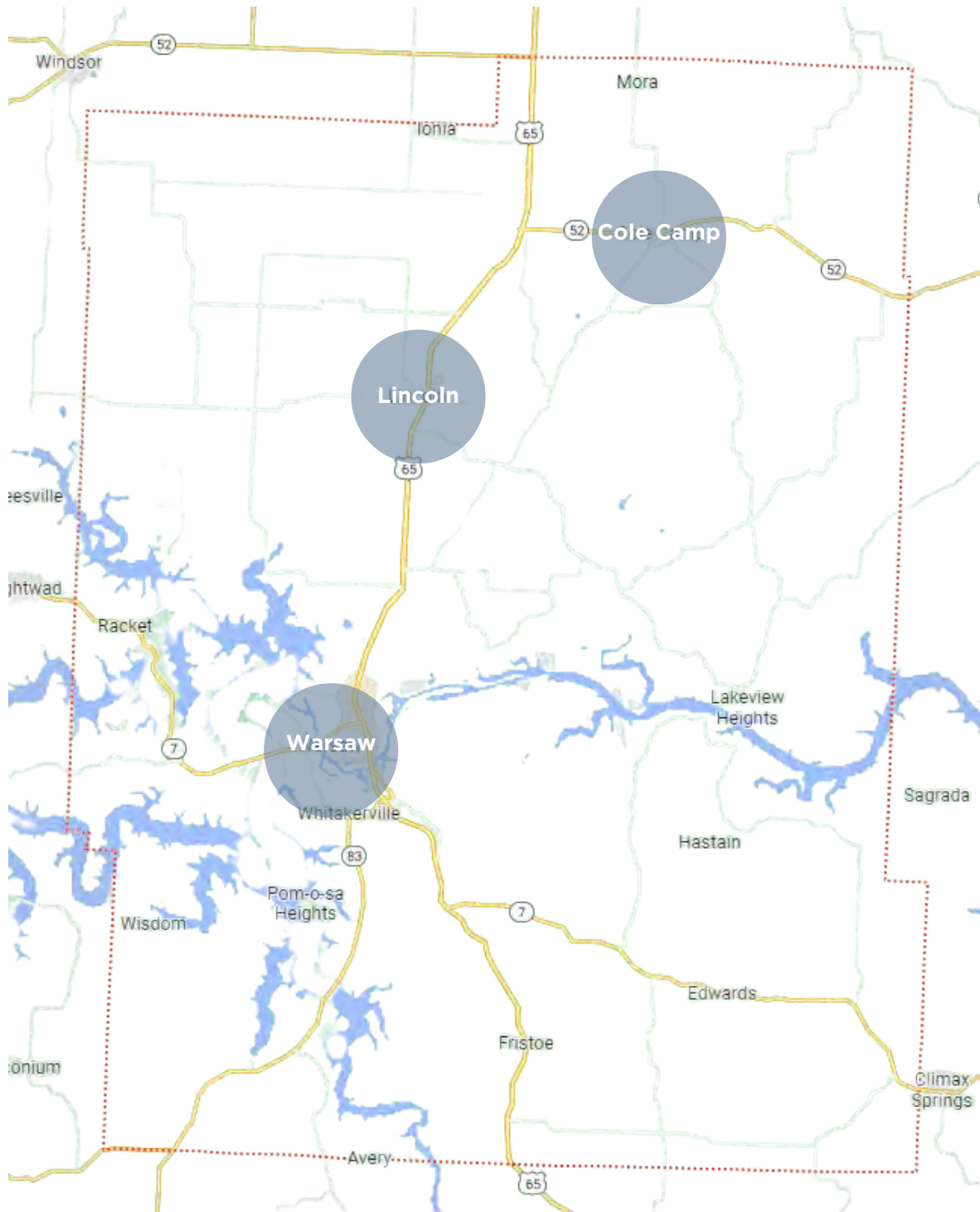
- **Instant Feedback:** Just attended a session that inspired you or left you with some thoughts? Dive into our survey immediately afterward and let us know your impressions while they're fresh!
- **Bulk Reflections:** Prefer to take stock of multiple sessions at once? You can use the survey to provide feedback on several sessions in one go.
- **Return Anytime:** Whether you want to reflect after each session or give feedback on the entire conference at the end, the survey is accessible multiple times. Feel free to return and share more insights as you navigate the conference.



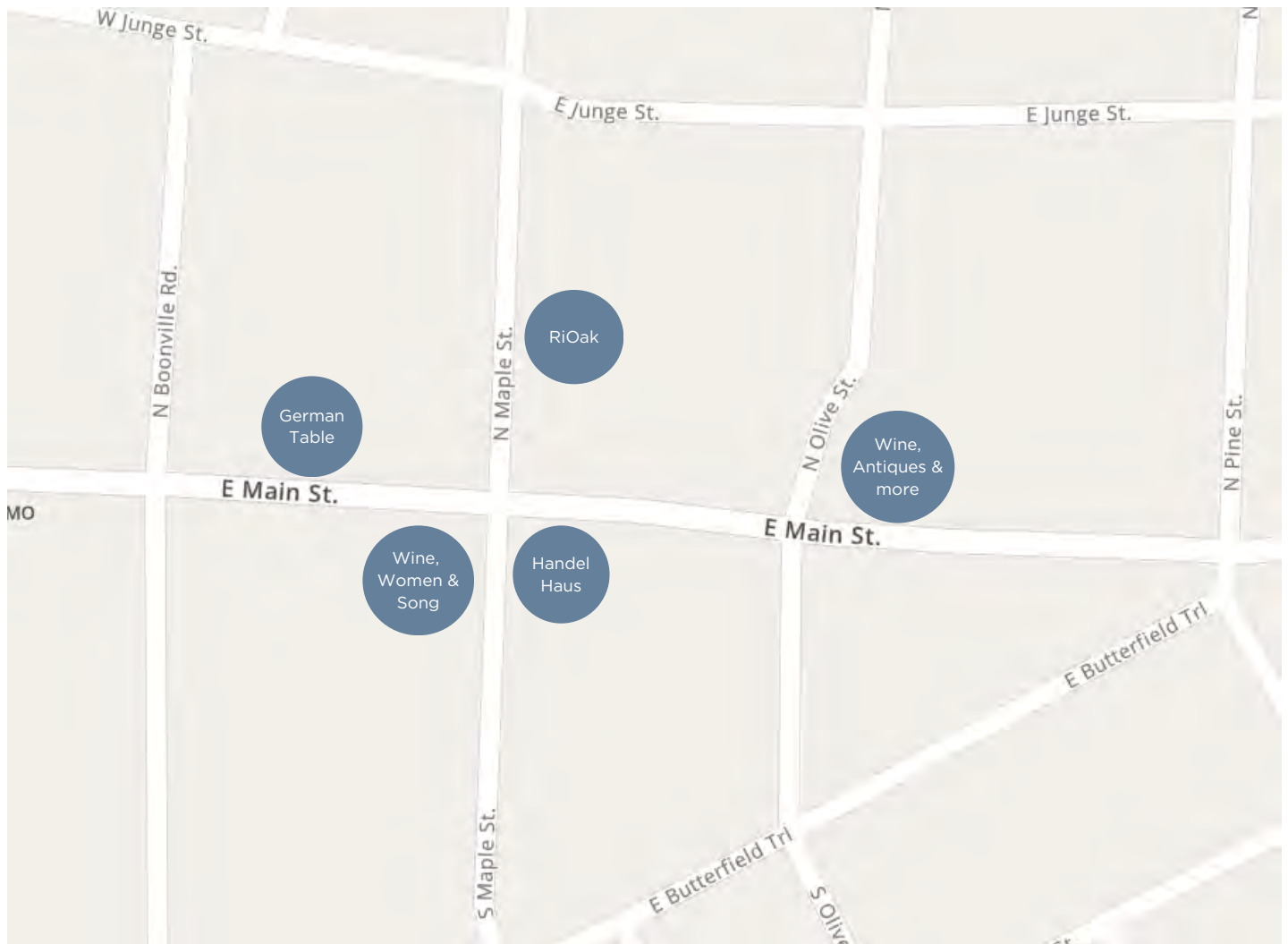
SCAN the QR Code to go straight to the online Feedback Survey!

Thank you for being an active participant in shaping the future of CEC!

Benton County, MO



Cole Camp, MO



SESSION LOCATIONS

RiOak - 116 W. Maple, Open Wednesday 9 AM-5 PM and Thursday 10 AM-5 PM

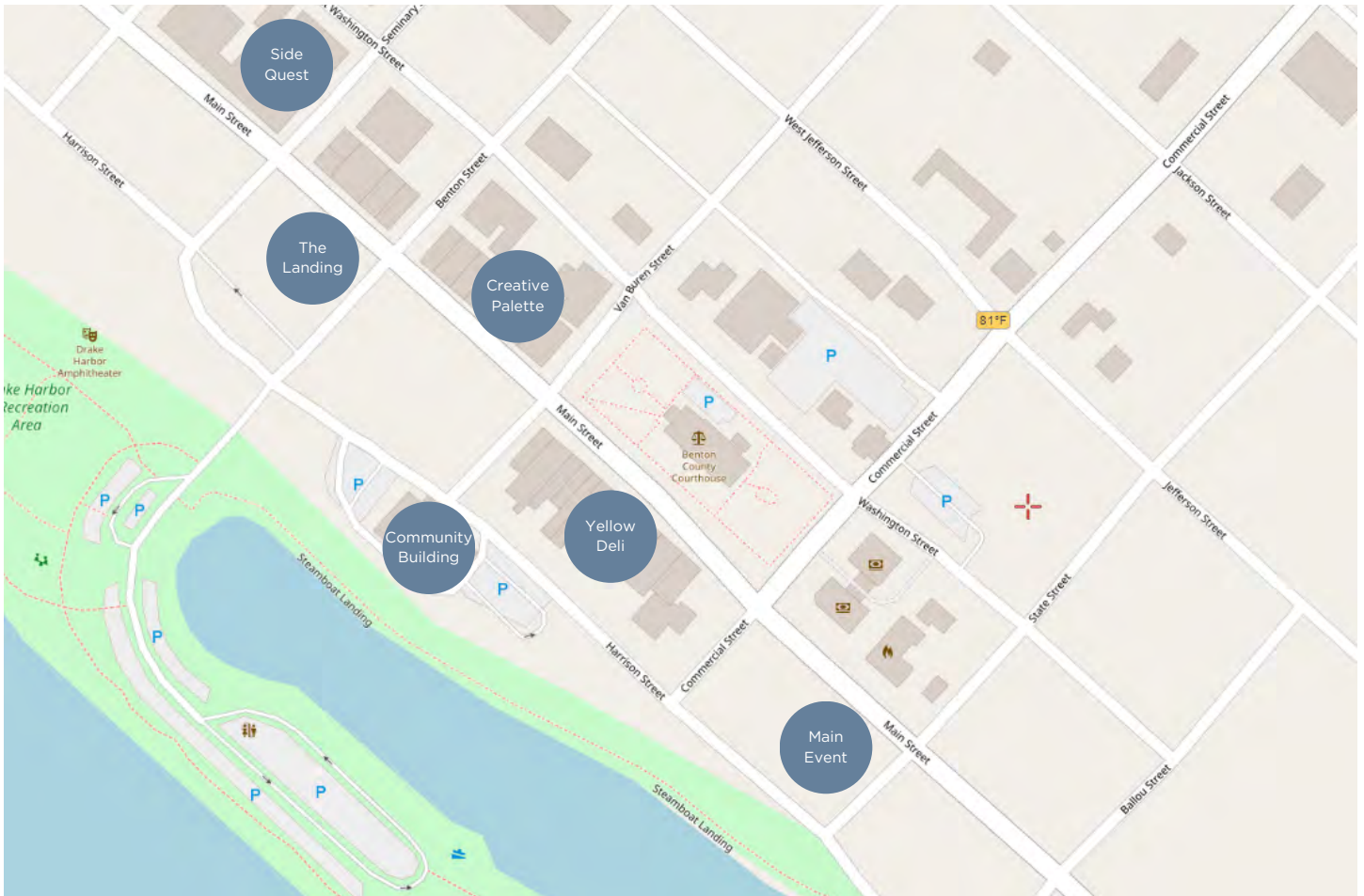
Handel Haus - 101 S. Maple, Open Wednesday 9 AM-5 PM and Thursday 10 AM-5 PM

Wine, Women & Song - 100 S. Maple, Open Wednesday 9 AM-5 PM and
Thursday 10 AM-5 PM

The German Table - 107 E. Main

Wine, Antiques & More - 301 E. Main, Open 10 AM-9 PM both days

Warsaw, MO



SESSION LOCATIONS

Warsaw Community Building - 181 W. Harrison

Creative Palette - 216 W. Main, Open Thursday 1-5 PM

Main Event Wedding Boutique & Event Rental - 117 E. Main, Open Thursday until 4 PM

The Landing Boutique - 305 Main, Open 9 AM-5 PM both days

Side Quest - 303 Seminary, Open 3-8 PM both days

The Yellow Deli - 145 Main, Open 11 AM- 3 PM both days

Shopping

WARSAW, MISSOURI

Country Charm - 230 W. Main, Open 10 AM-5 PM both days

Statuary Gardens - 233 W. Main, Open 10 AM-5 PM both days

Land, Sand & Sea Photography - 226 W. Main, Open 10 AM-5 PM both days

Oops I Arted Gallery & Boutique - 403 Van Buren

Sportsman Outfitters - 129 W. Main, Open 9 AM -5 PM both days

Sweet Tooth Fudge Factory - 420 W. Main, Open 11 AM-3 PM both days

Warsaw Antique Mall - 245 W. Main, Open 10 AM-5 PM both days

The Yuppy Puppy - 185 Main, Open 8 AM-4 PM both days

COLE CAMP, MISSOURI

Missouri Made Shop & Comfort Café - 105 E. Main, Open 10 AM-7 PM both days

Happy Feet - 104 E. Main, Open 10 AM-5 PM both days

Back In Time Toys - 113 E. Main, Open 10 AM-5 PM both days

Bee Cherished - 110 N. Maple, Open 10 AM-5 PM both days

Aces & Eights Pawn & Gun - 806 E. Main, Open 10 AM-6 PM both days

A Cole Camp Christmas - 104 N. Maple, Open 10 AM-5 PM both days

Mid Mo Trends - 103 E. Main, Open Thursday 11 AM-6 PM

The Hotel Bellview Antiques, Vintage & More (Heidi Mae Boutique) - 100 E. Butterfield,
Open 10 AM-5 PM both days

Dining

WARSAW

Back In Time Headquarters - 234 W. Main, Open 11 AM-9 PM both days

Cosmic Coffee - 504 W. Main, Open 7 AM-3 PM both days

El Camino Real - 120 Polk, Open 11 AM-10 PM both days

El Centenario - 840 E. Main, Open 11 AM-9 PM both days

Hill Top BBQ - 31594 MO 83, Open until 8 PM Wed/Thurs

NeeNee's - 324 W. Main, Open 12 Noon-8 PM both days

RedWing Coffee - 939 E. Main, Open 6:30 AM-5:30 PM both days

Taco Villa - 1627 Hilltop, Open 11 AM-8 PM both days

The Landing Bistro - 305 Main, Open 11 AM-9 PM both days

The Rusty Skillet - 248 Main, Open 7 AM-8 PM both days

COLE CAMP

Calgaro's Pizza - 104 S. Maple, Open 4-8 PM both days

AJ's Dairy Bar - 511 W. Main, Open 11 AM-9 PM both days

Classic Steakburgers - 803 E. Main, Open 7 AM-8 PM both days

Ella Belle's Bakery & Coffee Shop - 111 E. Main, Open Wednesday 7 AM-3 PM
and Thursday 7-11 AM

Hickman's Smokehouse/The Scone Lady Bakery & Coffee Shop - 310 E. Main, Open
Wednesday 6:30 AM-2 PM and Thursday 6:30 AM-7 PM

THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING SPONSORS


Connecting Entrepreneurial
Communities Conference
Benton County
2023




Missouri's Electric Cooperatives

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

