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ARC SPOTLIGHT



ARC's Federal Co-Chairman and Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) saw ARC investments in action this week. In FY 2018, ARC invested [\\$15.9 million](#) in 47 projects across the Mountain State.

ARC and Senator Capito Tour West Virginia

“The Appalachian Regional Commission plays such an important role in our state—particularly when it comes to diversifying and strengthening West Virginia’s economy,” U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) said while visiting West Virginia on Tuesday. “I was glad to have ARC Federal Co-Chairman Tim Thomas, as well as other ARC folks, with me today and appreciate their hard work and partnership with our office to address our current needs and maximize what can be done in communities like these.”

Stops along Capito and Thomas’ itinerary included a visit to [The Hive](#), an entrepreneurial support network based in Beckley. Developed in partnership with the [New River Gorge Regional Development Authority](#) (NRGRDA) and with support from ARC and other local partners, The Hive fosters aspiring and existing business owners in 12 southern West Virginia counties. Understanding that access to capital is one of the biggest challenges facing entrepreneurs and business development, Capito and Thomas also hosted a roundtable discussion with leaders from [The WV Community Hub](#), [Natural Capital Investment Fund \(NCIF\)](#), as well as experts in revolving loan funds, venture capital organizations, and other risk-based capital investment strategies. In the past three years alone, ARC has invested over \$3 million to The WV Hub and NCIF specifically to expand capital access in the area.

“I was pleased to meet so many West Virginians who are leveraging ARC investments to create opportunities for their state and their communities during today’s site visits. I want to thank Senator Capito for her support for ARC and for organizing this visit,” ARC Federal Co-Chairman Thomas said. “I look forward to our continued cooperation to help West Virginia invest in its resources, infrastructure, and people to build strong, resilient communities.”



INVESTMENTS IN ACTION



BRIGHT Kentucky is using support from ARC and state partners to build the next generation of leaders in Appalachian Kentucky.

BRIGHT Leaders in Kentucky

Understanding and maximizing leadership styles. Making a case for the Region. Collaborating for higher impact. Advocating and activating Appalachia. These are organizing goals [of BRIGHT Kentucky](#), a new training program to build the capacity of next-generation leaders ages 20-40 in Appalachian Kentucky to innovate, collaborate, and advance community and economic development. This past July, [the 50 members](#) of BRIGHT Kentucky's inaugural class met in the Commonwealth's Natural Bridge Region. The participants, all of whom work or live in one of ARC's 54 Kentucky counties, draw from a variety of public and private sectors including banking, education, advocacy, health, communications, and hospitality. As part of the program, the class will participate in five intensive training sessions, each happening in a different part of eastern Kentucky and focusing on one of the program's organizing themes. A graduation event will happen in November. Developed by Leadership Kentucky, BRIGHT Kentucky is supported by ARC, the [Kentucky Department of Local Government](#), [Shaping Our Appalachian Region \(SOAR\)](#), the Whitaker Foundation, and others. "Transformation of a region requires the development of new, young leadership," said Sandy Dunahoo, Commissioner of the Department for Local Government, and Kentucky's ARC Alternate. "Building on the success of Leadership Kentucky, BRIGHT will target emerging leaders at a young age to inspire them toward developing a new vision for the Appalachia of tomorrow."

Community capacity and leadership development is also at the core of ARC's new [Appalachian Leadership Institute](#). Like BRIGHT Kentucky, participants will represent the Region's diverse public, private, and non-profit sectors, and will include skill-building seminars, best practice reviews, and field visits across the Region beginning in October. A capstone graduation event will be held in Washington, DC next summer.



APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

Help Us Prepare Appalachia's Young Entrepreneurs!



ARC is **seeking proposals** from eligible organizations to conceptualize & conduct **a new high-school entrepreneurship summer program in Appalachia.**

Proposals are due **September 6, 2019 at 5 pm ET.**



LEARN MORE: www.arc.gov

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Join Our Team!

ARC is recruiting for a number positions, including a **Content Writer, Program Support Assistant and Program Analyst [Infrastructure]**.

The [Content Writer](#) will serve as ARC's lead writer and editor, working with the communications team to tell compelling stories through press releases, web materials, newsletters, speeches and other materials amplifying ARC's mission and efforts.

The [Program Support Assistant](#), a federal position, will coordinate a variety of administrative and programmatic functions and act as a central point of contact for the Office of the Federal Co-Chair.

The [Program Analyst \[Infrastructure\]](#) will manage federal grants and provide technical assistance to communities and potential grant applicants on strategic infrastructure-related investments.

For more information on this position, visit www.arc.gov/careers.

APPALACHIA IN THE NEWS

[Economic development the focus of meetings between Capito, ARC leadership](#), *WV Metro News*, Charleston, West Virginia

[Free Wi-Fi coming to downtown Rogersville thanks to ARC grant](#), *The Kingsport Times-News*, Kingsport, Tennessee

[UKV towns tackling dilapidated structures](#), *The Montgomery Herald*, Oak Hill, West Virginia

[Teachers learn about entrepreneurship](#), *The Coalfield Progress*, Norton, Virginia

[In Southern Appalachia, Searching for the 'Big Bang' of Country Music](#), *The New York Times*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Finance and the Arts Tourism and Agribusiness Webinar Series

Session Two: Budgeting

11:30 am - 12:45 pm ET

September 4

Appalachia Strong: An ARC Summit

Asheville, North Carolina

September 4 - 6

2019 National HBCU Week Conference

Washington, D.C.

September 8 - 10

Federal Student Aid Partner Summit - Appalachian Region

Morehead, Kentucky

September 26

Entre-Ed Forum

Lexington, Kentucky

September 27 - 29

Alabama-Mississippi Rural Tourism Conference

Natchez, Mississippi

October 21 - 23

Community Colleges of Appalachia 2019 Conference

Community Colleges: Creating Success in Appalachia

Hazard, Kentucky

October 30 - November 1

Appalachian Gateway Communities Regional Workshop

Bristol, Tennessee

November 5 - 7

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is an economic development agency of the federal government and 13 state governments focusing on 420 counties across the Appalachian Region. ARC's mission is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia to help the Region achieve socioeconomic parity with the nation.



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Appalachian Regional Commission
1666 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20009-1068

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