



In the Region



A WEEKLY SNAPSHOT OF NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND OTHER TIDBITS FROM THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

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ARC SPOTLIGHT



Registration for ARC's 2019 Annual Summit is Now Open

What fuels Appalachia's prosperity, progress, and growth? Part of the answer is YOU. On September 4-6, join hundreds from across the region at [Appalachia Strong, ARC's 2019 Annual Summit](#). Hosted in Asheville by the State of North Carolina, this summit connects Appalachia's doers, thinkers, and leaders through a shared commitment to the region's future.

The summit's [two-day agenda](#) is packed with panels and plenary conversations, mobile workshops, and breakout sessions organized into focused learning tracks for:

- business and workforce development (including sessions on emerging opportunities in agriculture),

- infrastructure expansion,
- substance use disorder and related health issues, and
- ARC technical assistance.

Attendees will not only learn more about these topics, but will also have the opportunity to exchange innovative ideas and foster productive partnerships with local leaders, economic developers, entrepreneurs, students, and more from across Appalachia.

All that's missing is YOU! Everyone plays a part in strengthening the region. [Register now](#) to help make Appalachia strong.



INVESTMENTS IN ACTION

*ARC partners in Appalachian Kentucky are training dislocated workers for a digital economy -
- a key strategy in helping the area's coal communities transition economically.*

Photo: [EKCEP](#)

Digital Career Training Bridges Employment Gaps in Kentucky

How are Appalachian counties trending economically? According to [ARC's County Economic Status Designations for FY 2020](#), the region's number of distressed counties fell to 80 - the lowest in over a decade. Nearly 48% of those counties, however, are in Kentucky. For the past several years, ARC has focused on helping these counties -- which are comprised primarily of coal-impacted communities -- transition toward a diversified economy.

One such investment was made through ARC's 2017 [POWER Initiative](#), which awarded \$3.5 million to Big Sandy Community and Technical College (Big Sandy) to implement the Eastern Kentucky Coal County Transformation project. With the primary goal of fueling an employer-driven digital economy and training dislocated coal workers for those careers, Big Sandy partnered with [Shaping Our Appalachian Region \(SOAR\)](#) and [Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program \(EKCEP\)](#) to launch workforce development programs on the campuses of Big Sandy, Hazard Community and Technical College, and Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College (all of which are also POWER grantees). To date, the programs have helped place 170 workers.

A unique offering that resulted from this project, [Digital Careers Now](#), identifies the exact skills and certifications local employers are looking for and then recruits and trains job seekers to fill those roles. Just this week, Digital Careers Now hosted a job fair in Pikeville, KY, [connecting nearly 100 attendees](#) with career opportunities in medical coding. This is just one of many workforce-focused

initiatives supported by ARC. In FY 2018, [ARC invested \\$27.2 million](#) in projects and partnerships readying the region's workforce. This type of support will certainly continue as we use our [FY 2020 County Economic Status Designations](#) to continue targeting resources to Appalachia's most distressed counties.



PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

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.**



LEARN MORE: www.arc.gov

ARC is currently seeking proposals from eligible organizations to partner on a new high school entrepreneurship summer program. The program will provide comprehensive entrepreneurial training and supportive services to selected high school students who will be seniors during the 2020–2021 academic year.

Read the [Request for Proposals](#), which must be submitted by close of business **on our newly extended deadline of September 6, 2019.**

Are you a former Appalachian Teaching Project student? We need your input!

Since 2001, over 2,000 students from 25 colleges and universities across Appalachia have participated in the [Appalachian Teaching Project \(ATP\)](#). Now, we're partnering with East Tennessee State University to conduct a survey of how participation in ATP has impacted students and the region.

If you were an ATP student, [please take this brief survey](#) to help us further improve the program and continue its positive collaboration with Appalachian communities. Please also share this link with fellow ATP alumni.

If you have any questions, contact Dr. Candace Forbes Bright at brightcm@etsu.edu or 423-439-6653.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Join Our Team!

ARC is recruiting for a number positions, including a **Program Analyst [Intermodal Transportation]**, **HR Generalist** and **Administrative Assistant**.

The [Program Analyst \[Intermodal Transportation\]](#) will develop and manage transportation projects linking the Appalachian Region to transportation systems to maximize economic impact.

The [HR Generalist](#) will join a collaborative team responsible for managing employee life cycle actions, including recruitment, processing payroll, and administering benefits.

The [Administrative Assistant](#) is a dynamic role that includes supporting overall program operations, coordinating travel and schedules, and greeting ARC visitors and callers.

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

APPALACHIA IN THE NEWS

[Opioids and Unemployment: Stopping the Cycle](#), *CBS 60 Minutes*

[Simpsonville receives \\$500,000 grant for Arts Center renovations](#), *WSPA*, Spartanburg, SC

[Disrupting the SySTEM: East Tennessee races to build future STEM workforce](#), *KnoxvilleNews Sentinel*, Knoxville, TN

[Prosperity plan developed for Appalachia](#), *The Marietta Times*, Marietta, OH

[Success at Paris Air Show translates into hundreds of jobs in WNC](#), *WLOS*, Asheville, NC

[Houston to receive \\$270,000 in Federal and State grants to renovate old Shannon Building](#), *Chickasaw Journal*, Houston, MS

UPCOMING EVENTS

2019 ARRI Conference

Cambridge, Ohio

July 24-25

Appalachia Strong: An ARC Summit

Asheville, North Carolina

September 4-6

2019 National HBCU Week Conference

Washington, D.C.

September 8-10

Alabama-Mississippi Rural Tourism Conference

Natchez, Mississippi

October 21-23

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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