

## Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development

A partnership between Kansas State University and the Huck Boyd Foundation, the Institute can report the following accomplishments since opening its office doors at K-State on April 2, 1990:

\*Helped create and enhance local leadership programs and helped write the Leadership Excellence And Dynamic Solutions (LEADS) curriculum. Based on a 2019 survey of the value of *additional* volunteer hours of service committed by graduates of these leadership programs, this has provided well over a **\$3.59 million benefit to the state**.

\*Produced more than 1,400 weekly *Kansas Profile – Now, That’s Rural* programs highlighting Kansas entrepreneurs and community leaders in an effort to support entrepreneurs and rural leaders, stimulate ideas of what is possible in rural areas, and to build pride in Kansas.

\*Co-chaired the annual K-State Leadership Seminar, which has provided training to more than 3,900 campus and community participants through the years.

\*Led regional initiatives in southwest Kansas, the Kansas Leadership Forum, first-ever Kansas Food Industry Roundtable, launched the Rural Education and Action Leadership (REAL) program, 3DI Digging Down for Deeper Impact program, Leader of the Year awards, & more.

\*Served as a pioneer in identifying key emerging issues such as regionalism, rural telecommunications, remote work, and diversity and inclusion. For example, the Institute conducted leadership training on Dimensions of Diversity with sessions in Junction City and Garden City back in the 1990s.

\*Testified before the House Rural Revitalization Committee and have spoken to or served as a resource person for such groups as the Rural Crossroads project of the Smithsonian Institution, National Rural Education Association, Community Leadership Association, the Association of Leadership Educators, International Society of Educational Biographers, National Outreach Scholarship Conference at Penn State, National Rural Development Partnership in Washington DC, Federal Reserve Bank Center for the Study of Rural Affairs, National Association of Housing Redevelopment Officials, National Rural Grocery Summit, Conservation Leadership Network, the National Policy Association and others.

\*Initiated the Kansas Rural Development Council, the first-ever Kansas Rural Issues Poll, and an annual Rural Policy Symposium. Helped plan and present the Rural Opportunities Conference.

\*Produced the report “County Cooperation: Regional Strategies for Rural Kansas” which included the conceptual model that is credited as the basis for the creation of the western Kansas Rural Economic Development Alliance.

\*Partnered with K-State Research and Extension Community Vitality team in First Impressions, Board Leadership Series, Community Development Academies, remote work professional training, and much more. Received grant funding from Kansas Inc., Kansas Health Foundation, Dane G. Hansen Foundation, USDA Rural Development, Huck Boyd Foundation and others.

\*Received feedback such as the following: “I know from personal experience that what you do there makes a difference....Many lives forever changed by something you said and the way you said it...”