

Breakthrough News

U of A
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Breakthrough News

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**Breakthrough Solutions is a program of the University of Arkansas
Cooperative Extension Service, with partners in the public,
private, and non-profit sectors**

The purpose of Breakthrough News is to equip communities and regions to prosper in the 21st century economy.

Editor: Mark Peterson, Professor - Community and Economic Development

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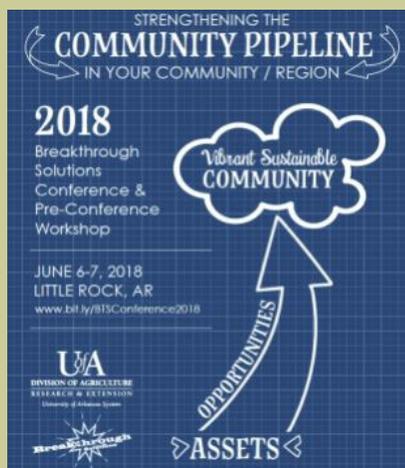
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Breakthrough Solutions Conference Agenda and Early Bird Registration is Now Available

Do you have a sense that in your community or region, you are not keeping up, and that what worked even 5 years ago is not working so well today? Do you want to learn how to revitalize your community? Join us June 6-7 in Little Rock and our partners and guest speakers can teach you about opportunities to improve the economic future of your community. Consider these questions:

- * Is your community growing or losing population?
- * Do you have many vacant buildings and do they stay vacant long?

Breakthrough Solutions Partners

We appreciate the continued support of the following:

Arkansas Community Colleges

Arkansas Community Foundation

Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism

AEDC Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions

Arkansas Geographic Information Office

Arkansas Human Development Corporation

Arkansas Small Business Technology and Development Center

Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/AIA

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Federal Reserve Bank of ST. Louis, Little Rock Branch

Ken Hubbell and Associates

Morrilton Area Chamber of Commerce / Conway County Economic Development Corp.

Newport Economic Development Commission

Simmons Bank

Strategic Consultants

* In a time when more and more people can live anywhere, are they choosing to live in your community?

* Is your community known for its can-do, opportunity mindset?

Registration is now available for the 2018 Breakthrough Solutions Conference and Pre-Conference Workshop. The early bird rates cease on May 24, so act now. You can see the details [here](#).

Turn Around Communities is Theme of Pre-Conference Workshop

Turn Around Communities

In a recent poll of our Breakthrough News readers, Turn Around Communities was identified as the top issue people are concerned about. This is confirmed by a recent census report, which found that only 8 of our 75 Arkansas counties grew as fast or faster than the national average, and 2/3 of our counties actually lost population. As you know, it is difficult for communities, counties, and regions to improve or even maintain their quality of life and place if they are losing population. You can learn more about this downward spiral and our pre-conference workshop on Turn Around Communities in the 21st Century Economy [here](#).



Moving Manila Forward is Making Things Happen

One of the keys to successful community and economic development is to engage the community so the process is driven by their needs and desires. In addition to public meetings, the chairman of Moving Manila Forward, Andrew Fleeman, engaged the community through a community survey on Facebook. Since it was formed last year, Moving Manila Forward has seen:

- * Two farmers' markets attract 60 vendors and over 600 people,
- * A Shrimp Fly-in, with the Manila Pilot's Association flying in 300 pounds of fresh shrimp from the Gulf for a farmers' market event and dinner,
- * A Manila Area Ministerial Alliance has been formed, and
- * Over 1,000 people attracted to multiple events in downtown Manila

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You can learn more about their story [here](#).

Social Entrepreneurship - Addressing Important Issues in Innovative Ways

If you are ready for a fresh approach from the old debate between those who claim government is the answer and those who say the private sector is the answer, you are in for a real treat - social entrepreneurship. Social entrepreneurship is the use of start-up companies and other entrepreneurs to develop, fund and implement solutions to social, cultural, or environmental issues. They may be non-profits or for-profits, and often they are in partnership with public agencies. Click [here](#) to learn about three incredible stories of social entrepreneurship.

Fostering Hope Raises \$18,500 at Fundraiser

If someone told you they wanted to have a fund raising event for foster children in your rural county and do it with a free will offering, do you think they could:

- Attract over 2,000 people
- Collect over \$18,500 in a free will offering?

Nope, me neither. But that is exactly what happened recently in Morrilton for the Western Yell County Foster Hope for Foster Children project, led by Charity Keener. This is an incredible story, and you will hear all about it at our Breakthrough Solutions Conference on June 7. Her story will foster hope in all of us.

Story of the Month: The Most Amazing Intersection In The World

This intersection reminds me of when I was riding with my younger brother in New York City several years ago. He would alternately hit the gas, stomp on the brake, honk the horn, and utter an exclamation as he negotiated the fast-moving traffic. My first thought was: "Who are you and what have you done with my brother?" I survived, and it made me appreciate living in The South, with its slower pace of life.

You must check out this short Youtube video showing Meskel Square in Addis Abeba. Notice the people crossing the road on foot. This is how this intersection operates with NO white or yellow lines, NO directional arrows, NO traffic lights and no one directing traffic. Go to [See the video here](#), turn up the volume, and hold on to your hat. And yes, you could say this represents the 21st century economy - a mixture of order and chaos. If you expect anything else, you haven't been paying attention.

Coming Events

April 24: Community Development Summit in Harrison AR, sponsored by the UCA Center for Community and Economic Development, Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District. Go to <http://uca.edu/cced/community-development-summit/> for more details.

April 27: Screening of the documentary "Resilience", which addresses adverse childhood experiences and building resilient communities, sponsored by UA Little Rock Center for Nonprofit Organizations, 12 noon - 1:30 p.m., UA Little Rock Donaghey Student Center. Contact Dr. Kirk Leach, kaleach@ualr.edu for details.

May 7: Kick Start Alma Action Plan Unveiling, Alma AR. Come see Governor Hutchinson unveil the Kick Start Alma Action Plan. See www.facebook.com/kickstartalma/ for more details.

May 31: Small Developer Conference, Conway; Go to <http://uca.edu/cced/events/>.

June 6-7: 2018 Breakthrough Solutions Conference and Pre-Conference Workshops, U of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, Little Rock. For more information, go to www.bit.ly/BTSConference2018.

July 30-August 3: Community Development Institute at University of Central Arkansas in Conway. Go to www.uca.edu/cdi for more information.

August 26-28: AEDCE Annual Conference in Fayetteville. Go to <http://www.aedce.org/> for more details.



Visit Our Community and Economic Development Unit at:
<https://www.uaex.edu/business-communities/>
<http://www.facebook.com/UACommunityDevelopment>

How to Strategically Impact Your Community:

If you want to impact your community in a powerful way, forward this e-mail newsletter to other individuals in your community or organization, so they can benefit from the resources, insights, and strategies covered in Breakthrough News.

More About Breakthrough Solutions:

Recipient of the Outstanding Program Award and Innovative Program Award by the international Community Development Society, Breakthrough Solutions is a program of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, with partners in the

public, private, and non-profit sectors. For more information:
(501) 671-2253.

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Send an e-mail message to mpeterson@uaex.edu, asking to be added or removed from the Breakthrough News mailing list.

Past Issues:

To see past issues of Breakthrough News, go to
<https://www.uaex.edu/business-communities/strategic-planning/breakthrough-solutions.aspx>

If you want to impact your community in a powerful way, forward this email newsletter to other individuals in your community or organization, so they can benefit from the resources, insights, and strategies covered in Breakthrough News.

Best regards,

Mark Peterson

Professor, Community and Economic Development
University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service
2301 South University Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72203
501-671-2253
mpeterson@uaex.edu

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