



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.

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The Most Ambitious Infrastructure Project of All Time
You won't want to miss it!

Register for June 6-7th Breakthrough Solutions Conference Today!

There's still time to sign up for the 2018 Breakthrough Solutions Conference to be held on June 7th in Little Rock. Learn how to improve the economic future of your community from Great Places Director **Liesl Vogus** and other engaging speakers. You will also want to catch our pre-conference workshop on June 6th featuring **Becky Cleveland** to hear more about six key elements to turn around communities. To learn more and to register go to <https://www.uaex.edu/business-communities/strategic-planning/breakthrough-solutions.aspx>.

Kickstart Alma is Off and Running

Congratulations to the community leaders and citizens of Alma for launching their Kick Start Alma Action Plan on May 7. Governor Asa Hutchinson spoke at the



event, stating that this action plan points to a bright future for the community and is a key part of the future and economic development of Arkansas. **Check it out!**



Fairfield Bay Announces Hotel is Coming to Town

Congratulations to the community leaders of Fairfield Bay for announcing that a Cobblestone Hotel is coming to the community and will be located next to their conference center. Mayor Paul Wellenberger, emceed a groundbreaking event which featured Governor Asa Hutchinson. **Read the story!**

Story of the Month: One Belt, One Road – The Most Ambitious Infrastructure Project of All Time

Pegged as the most ambitious infrastructure mega-project of all time, China's One Belt, One Road initiative (OBOR) will stretch from the very edge of east Asia to east Africa and central Europe, connecting nearly two thirds of the world's population. Through continuous networks of highways, railways, ocean routes and ports, the scheme will open up cross-border connectivity and encourage a further integration of international markets. You can see it **here**.

Strategic questions for us to consider:

- Why would they do this?
- How will this impact our nation and its economy?
- Is your community connected with communities in your region in multiple ways?
- If not, what steps can you take to do so?

Quote for the Day: "In everyone's life, at some time, our inner fire goes out. It is then burst into flame by an encounter with another human being. We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle the human spirit." - *Albert Schweitzer*

Coming Events

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

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

June 20: Public Relations and Reputation Management Workshop, sponsored by Arkansas Economic Developers and Chamber Executives; Go to www.aedce.org for more information.

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

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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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

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