

## NEWS RELEASE

October 7, 2010

### **ARDN AGM & Showcase features rural development projects and speakers**

People involved in rural development will have the chance to learn from research and partnerships, and network with colleagues from across Alberta at the Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN) AGM and Showcase at Red Deer College on October 14, 2010.

All sessions are in the Centre for Innovation & Advanced Manufacturing, Rooms 2901 A&B. The business portion of the AGM is for members only; all other events are open to the public at no charge.

The Showcase runs from 2:30-4:30 p.m. and features presenters from six of ARDN's post-secondary member institutions. Topics include: rural Alberta business, communications technology, addressing regional and rural issues, rural students' perspectives on political engagement, sustainability and transportation risk assessment for wildlife.

A networking reception will be held 5:00-9:00 p.m. At 6:00 p.m., ARDN Interim Chair Rick Neidig will give highlights of the past year and introduce keynote speaker Thaddeus Guldbrandsen, the Director of the Center for Rural Partnerships in New Hampshire, USA. Networking continues following his address.

People are asked to register in advance to ensure there are adequate refreshments at the reception and to obtain a free parking pass; there is no charge for attending. Contact Joy Vonk by phone (780) 449-1006 ext 221 or toll-free 1-877-987-1006, or email [exec.assist@ardn.ca](mailto:exec.assist@ardn.ca).

*The Alberta Rural Development Network is a partnership of Alberta's 21 publicly-funded, publicly-governed post-secondary institutions. ARDN is funded in part by Rural Alberta's Development Fund, with funding from the Government of Alberta. The Network supports and enhances rural development in Alberta through research, education, networking and collaboration. To learn more, go to [www.ardn.ca](http://www.ardn.ca).*

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### **BACKGROUNDER ATTACHED**

#### **Media Contact:**

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## **BACKGROUND –October 7, 2010**

### **The Alberta Rural Development Network AGM and Showcase**

Thursday, October 14, 2010, 2:00-9:00 p.m.

Red Deer College, Centre for Innovation & Advanced Manufacturing, Rooms 2901A&B

#### **Agenda:**

Noon - 200pm AGM Business Meeting – Members only

2:00 - 2:30pm Registration & Refreshments

2:30 - 4:30pm AGM Showcase of ARDN Projects:

1. Revitalization of Rural Alberta Businesses – *Mount Royal University*
2. An Assessment of the Use and Efficacy of Communications Technology in Developing and Maintaining Networks in Rural Communities of Southern Alberta – *University of Lethbridge*
3. The Coordination Challenge: Multiple Urban Post-Secondary Institutions Addressing Regional and Rural Issues – *Bow Valley College*
4. Investigating Rural Senior Undergraduate Students' Perspectives on Civic and Political Engagement – *University of Alberta, Augustana Campus*
5. Achievable Sustainability Options for a Resource-based Community – *Athabasca University*
6. Transportation Risk Assessment for Wildlife on the Queen Elizabeth II and Secondary Highways in the Red Deer Region – Red Deer College

5:00 - 9:00pm Networking Reception with hors d'oeuvres and cash bar

6:00 - 7:00pm Keynote Speaker: *Thaddeus Guldbrandsen*, Director of the Center for Rural Partnerships, New Hampshire, USA

#### **Bio: Thaddeus Guldbrandsen**

Thaddeus C. Guldbrandsen is founding director of the Center for Rural Partnerships at Plymouth State University and chair of the Northern Forest Higher Education Network. He is a faculty member in the departments of Social Science and Environmental Science & Policy at Plymouth State University. In that capacity, Thad is involved with a wide range of community-university partnerships to promote sustainable community development across rural New Hampshire.

He is co-author of the award winning book *Local Democracy Under Siege: Activism, Public Interests, and Private Politics* (NYU Press 2007), and several articles and book chapters on globalization, local democracy, regionalism, sustainable development and social inequality. In 2008, he was named as part of the *Union Leader* newspaper's "40 Under Forty" young people who make a difference in New Hampshire. Before joining PSU, Thad was a member of the anthropology faculty at the University of New Hampshire (2001-2005) and director of the Center for the Study of Community, a collaborative program of UNH and Strawberry Banke Museum.

Thad attended the University of Wyoming and graduated with highest honors (*summa cum laude*) from the University of New Hampshire in 1995. He earned his PhD in anthropology in 2001 from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.