

# Rural Regional Success

## what have we learned



**Dave Ivan**  
**Michigan State University**

## Where we've been

**Rob Greenwood**

- “These are the best of times.. these are the worst of times”
- History of rural development efforts in Canada
- Program “de-jour” – some successes/other limited outcomes.
  - Place-based capacity building
  - Strength of weak ties



# Rural Regional Success

Reality is that rural vitality can be a continuous challenge – a never-ending journey



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# Promising Approaches

- Brooks/County of Newell
- Immigration experiences
- Rural regional tourism
- Faith community as a contributor to regional capacity



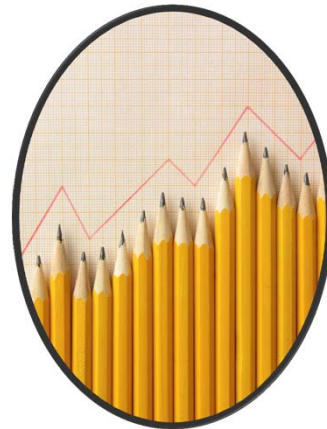
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## Successful Regions Have...

- Leaders that recognize the new realities of economic development
- Relationships that bond the region together
- A global view
- An understanding of current strengths
- Flexibility and adaptability



So where are we headed?



## Learn from our peers



- Capacity building
- Leadership development
- Trust building

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## Keynotes provide further insights

- **Peter Kenyon** – community development approaches in Australia;
- **June Holley** – network weaving in the Appalachian region of US;
- **Cornelia Flora** –examining regional assets through community capitals framework;



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# Overall Observation

Know your region!!

