

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments & Vance County Present:



KERR-TAR REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

MCGREGOR HALL PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER

OCTOBER 8, 2026

SUMMIT AGENDA

8:30 - 9:45 AM REGISTRATION

Breakfast & Networking: Sponsored by Warren County EDC & Tourism Authority

9:45 AM TRANSITION TO AUDITORIUM

10:00 - 10:15 AMWELCOME & REMARKS

*Diane Cox, Executive Director, Kerr-Tar Regional COG
Renee Perry, County Manager, Vance County Government
Melissa Elliott, Mayor, City of Henderson
Mark Hopper, Executive Director, McGregor Hall*

10:15 - 10:18 AM INTRODUCTION: FIRST LADY OF NC

Ruxton Bobbitt, Board Chair, Henderson-Vance Economic Development Commission

10:18 - 10:25 AM SPECIAL REMARKS

Anna Stein, First Lady of North Carolina, Office of the Governor

10:25 - 10:30 AMINTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE

Sandra Wilkerson, Henderson-Vance Chamber of Commerce President

10:30 - 11:15 AM KEYNOTE SPEAKER

You Are Already Rich: Leading the Region You are Standing In

Dr. Mary Hemphill, CEO, The Limitless Leader

11:15 - 11:25 AM BREAK

Snacks: Sponsored by Vance County Tourism

11:25 AM TRANSITION TO AUDITORIUM

11:30 - 12:15 PM PANEL 1

Rooted in Place, Powered by Visitors

Moderated by Carol Kline

Tourism Managment Professor,Appalachian State University

PANELISTS:

*André Nabors, Partner & Community Relations Manager, Visit NC/EDPNC
Ferdinand Rouse, Director, Vance County Economic Development
Catherine Hughes, Owner, Satterwhite Point & Rudds Creek Marinas*

KERR-TAR REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

12:15 - 1:40 PM **LUNCH**

Visit Downtown Restaurants, Food Trucks, and Rooted Marketplace

1:40 PM **TRANSITION TO AUDITORIUM**

1:45 - 2:30 PM **SPEAKER**

The Power of Agritourism

Dr. Carla Barbieri, Agritourism Specialist, NC State University

2:30 - 3:15 PM **PANEL 2**

Rooted in Opportunity: How Agritourism Grows Farms & Rural Economies

Moderated by Dr. Wykia Macon

Director, Vance County NC Cooperative Extension

PANELISTS:

Quantes Randel, Owner, Porte NOIRE Farm & Gardens

Kelly Dixon, Owner, Dixon Farms

Jack Pleasant, Owner, Sunset Ridge Buffalo Farm

Dr. Cindy Bennett, Owner, Hillside Farms

Preston Williams III, Owner, Seven Springs Vineyard

3:20 - 3:25 PM **CLOSING REMARKS**

Kenny Flowers, Chief Deputy Secretary, NC Department of Commerce

3:30 - 5:00 PM **ROOTED MARKETPLACE**

Breckenridge Street,

Live Music by The Konnection Band: Sponsored by Cypress Creek Renewables



Summit Sponsors



PERSON COUNTY
— ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT —



**HENDERSON
VANCE COUNTY**
Economic Development Commission



NC Electric
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COUNTY, NC**
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Granville
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Warren County
Community & Economic Development

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ROOTED 2026 SUMMIT

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

City of Henderson
County of Vance
Franklin County Economic Development
Franklin County Tourism Development Authority
Granville County Chamber of Commerce
Granville County Economic Development
Granville County Tourism Development Authority
Henderson-Vance County Chamber of Commerce
Henderson-Vance Economic Development
NC Cooperative Extension Offices
Person County Economic Development
Person County Tourism Development Authority
Piedmont Community College
Roxboro Area Chamber of Commerce
Vance County Tourism Development Authority
Vance-Granville Community College
Warren County Economic Development
Warren County Tourism Development Authority

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Additional Information!



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