BRIDGING THE DIVIDE
Forging the Ties Between Rural and Urban America

Wednesday, April 10

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Dialogue Across Differences Workshop
(Students Only)
Joe Bubman, Executive Director of Urban Rural Action.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Student Lunch

1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Southside Site Visits + Rural Practitioners*
*Off-site (Students and Invited Guests Only)
Lori Bonin and Brett Reese, REVocity; UChicago Med Trauma Center Site Visit; Ashley Hanson, Department of Public Transformation; Anna Claussen, Voices for Rural Resilience.

5:00 p.m. - 5:05 p.m.
Welcoming Remarks
Zeenat Rahman, IOP Executive Director; Heidi Heitkamp, IOP Institute Director, former US Senator of North Dakota.

5:05 p.m. - 5:20 p.m.
Opening Frame: Is the Rural-Urban Divide a Real Thing?
Nicholas Jacobs, Author of The Rural Voter: The Politics of Place and the Disuniting of America.

5:20 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Transforming Narratives
Sarah Smarsh, Author of Heartland; Rhymefest, Rapper and Songwriter. Moderated by Mary Louise Kelly, Host of NPR’s All Things Considered.

Thursday, April 11

9:00 a.m. - 9:10 a.m.
Welcome and Introduction
Heidi Heitkamp, IOP Institute Director, Former US Senator of North Dakota.

9:10 a.m. - 10:05 a.m.
We Need Each Other: Rural-Urban Interdependence on Energy and Climate Change
Doug Ducey, Former Governor of Arizona; Tony Pipa, Brookings Institution. Moderated by Heidi Heitkamp.

10:10 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.
The Great American Loneliness: Health Disparities and Deaths of Despair in America
Beth Macy, Author of Dopesick; Dale King, Owner PSKC CrossFit; Co-founder Doc Spartan, Owner Spartan Solutions Group; Dr. Ngozi Ezike, President & CEO of Sinai Health System.

11:10 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.
Panel: Local News Deserts and Polarization
Darryl Holliday, City Bureau Founder; Jeff Zeleny, CNN; Tim Marena, The Daily Yonder; Silvia Rivera, Director of the Local News Program at the MacArthur Foundation. Moderated by David Axelrod.

12:10 p.m. - 1:10 p.m.
Lunch & Practitioner Break-Outs: New Paradigms for Rural-Urban Relationships
- **GROUP 1 - Workforce Development**: Bonita Robertson-Hardy, Aspen Institute Community Strategies Group; Ann Lichter, Resource Rural at the Heartland Fund; Andrew Wells, Chicago Urban League.
- **GROUP 2 - New Approaches to Economic Development**: Chrystel Cornelius, Oweesta Corporation; Andrew Crosson, Invest Appalachia; Chian Foreman, Emerald South Economic Development Collaborative.
- **GROUP 3 - Building Relationships across the Urban-Rural Divide**: Anna Claussen, Voices for Rural Resilience; Savannah Barrett, Co-founder, Kentucky Rural-Urban Exchange; Taylor Stuckert, American Connection Corps at Lead For America; Sister Simone Campbell, Nuns on the Bus.

1:30 p.m. - 2:25 p.m.
Place-Based Economic Policy

2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
30-minute coffee networking break.

3:00 p.m. - 3:55 p.m.
Politics as Religion: The Role of Faith in a Secularizing America

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
We Are What We Eat
John Boyd Jr, National Black Farmers Association; Janie Hipp, Native Agriculture Financial Services; Ertharin Cousin, World Food Programme. Moderated by Monica Eng, Axios Chicago.
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**Friday, April 12**

**9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.**
The Power of Place and Particularity: When We Trust the Virtual World Over Our Own Backyard
Grace Olmstead, Author of Uprooted. Moderated by Benya Kraus Beacom, Lead for America.

**9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.**
Our Fraying Common Purpose: Rebuilding Democracy One Neighborhood at a Time
Stephen Heintz, Rockefeller Brothers Fund; Michael Smith, AmeriCorps; Whitney Kimball Coe, Center for Rural Strategies. Moderated by Zeenat Rahman, IOP.

**11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Bringing People into the Fold at the Grassroots
Whitley Yates, Indiana Republican Party; Manu Meel, BridgeUSA; Benji Backer, American Conservation Coalition. Moderated by Michael Strautmanis, Obama Foundation

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**
Crossing Partisan Lines & Rural/Urban Perspectives: Finding Common Ground in Polarized Times
Rob Portman, Former US Senator of Ohio. Moderated by Manu Raju, CNN.

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