

The 6th Annual North Country Symposium

Sponsored by St. Lawrence University's Ellen C. Burt '42 Endowment for North Country Education

April 9th, 2008 8:30am – 5:00pm

Eben Holden Conference Center, St. Lawrence University

http://www.northcountry_symposium.org

“Resources for North Country Sustainability” **Program**

8:30 **Registration**

9:00 **Welcome and Background on Symposium**

- *Jim Shuman, Chair, Department of Education, St. Lawrence University: History of the Symposium and Review of the Going Local Concepts*

9:45 **“Seeking Sustainability by Going Local”**

- *What is sustainability? What does the process of sustainable development entail? How can we achieve sustainability by “Going Local”? How does the North Country Symposium promote sustainable development?*
- *What resources and tools can North Country communities and organizations turn to in pursuing sustainable development? Presentation of new resources available to the Symposium action/research teams.*

10:15 **“Energy as a Lens to Going Local and Sustainable Development”**

- *How Energy illustrates the concepts of Going Local and Sustainable Development*
- *The work of the Energy action/research team to “Keep Our Energy Dollars at Home”*
- *St. Lawrence University energy initiatives*

11:00 **“Promoting Workforce Development in North Country Public Schools”**

- *The North Country Symposium Education action/research team and task force's pilot program*
- *St. Lawrence County Workforce and Professional Development Committee's Internship Program*

12:00 **Luncheon and Presentation by Dr. Charles Fluharty**

- *Charles Fluharty, Director of Policy Programs for the Rural Policy Research Institute (biographical information on back). Dr. Fluharty will provide conceptual considerations and orientation for the action/research team planning sessions.*

1:00 **Collaborative Planning on Developing Initiatives in the North Country**

- *Participants will break into action/research teams established to match sectors of the economy (energy, housing, transportation, etc.). Action/research teams will have the opportunity to discuss existing regional initiatives in their sector, and work on those initiatives or new initiatives as they deem appropriate.*

2:30 **Break and Action/Research Team Reports**

3:15 **Featured Speaker – Dr. Charles Fluharty**

- *The featured speaker will provide assimilation of the day's proceedings, provide national and international context, and provide advice to participants on how to keep advancing our efforts.*

4:15 **Networking and Connections/ Completion of Evaluation and Feedback Forms**

Action/Research Teams

Action/research teams will continue work on different aspects of the region's situation:

Arts, Entertainment & Tourism	Food & Agriculture
Business Enterprise & Production	Health
Education	Housing
Energy	Retail
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (F.I.R.E.)	Transportation

Registrants are to identify their preferences for different teams, which are composed of community organizers, researchers, and students in the interest area. *At the Symposium, each action/research team will have the opportunity to discuss existing regional initiatives in their sector, and work on those initiatives or new initiatives as they deem appropriate. Each group will also appoint one (or two) conveners for the coming year to serve as a clearinghouse for the group's action and research initiatives.* The teams will report their results before the end of the Symposium day.

Biographical Information about Featured Speaker

Charles W. Fluharty

**President Emeritus and Director of National Policy Programs,
Rural Policy Research Institute**

Charles W. Fluharty is Founding Director of the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI), the only national policy institute in the U.S. solely dedicated to assessing the rural impacts of public policies. This comprehensive approach to rural policy analysis involves scientists from member institutions at Iowa State University, the University of Missouri, and the University of Nebraska, as well as numerous researchers, policy analysts and policy practitioners from other universities, research institutions, governments, and non-governmental organizations.

To date, over 250 scholars representing 16 different disciplines in 100 universities, all U.S. states and 25 other nations have participated in RUPRI projects. National RUPRI Centers, Initiatives, Panels, work groups and research projects address the full range of policy and program dynamics affecting rural America. Collaborations with the OECD, the EU, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, the International Rural Network and other international organizations are framing RUPRI's comparative rural policy foci.

Chuck was born and raised on a fifth generation family farm in the Appalachian foothills of eastern Ohio, and is a graduate of Yale Divinity School. His career has centered upon service to rural people, primarily within the public policy arena. A seasoned policy analyst and practitioner, he has authored numerous policy studies, journal articles and policy briefs addressing the rural differential in public policy decision making. Chuck is a frequent speaker before national and international public policy, private sector and nonprofit audiences, and has presented dozens of Congressional testimonies and briefings. He has also provided senior policy consultation to most federal departments, state and local governments, associations of government, planning and development organizations, and many foundations.

A Research Professor and Associate Director for Rural Policy Programs in the Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri-Columbia, he also holds an Adjunct Faculty appointment in the UMC Department of Rural Sociology. Among his numerous awards are the Distinguished Service to Rural Life Award from the Rural Sociological Society, the USDA Secretary's Honor Award for Superior Service (jointly to RUPRI), the President's Award from the National Association of Development Organizations, and the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Counties.

Chuck and his wife Marsha are the parents of two sons and a daughter.