

OCRE Federal Rural Education Policy Event

February 24, 2021 12 – 5 pm ET

Register: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_fxNV-APSSCaca3Hp1GER0A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fxNV-APSSCaca3Hp1GER0A)



Organizations Concerned About Rural Education (OCRE) is proud to host its annual federal rural education policy event. During this half-day virtual event, attendees will get an overview of the issues facing rural K-12 schools, administrators, teachers and students as our public school system continues to recover from the pandemic. This event is free and open to all interested parties.

Session Title	Description and Speakers	Time
<b><i>Strengthening Rural Education and Communities</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Description:</b> As the opening panel for the half-day OCRE event, this session will provide a framework for the broader discussion about the strengths and opportunities in our rural schools and communities, their struggles and areas of growth, and where and how the federal government stands to strengthen both.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Speakers:</b> Lucy Johnson, former deputy assistant secretary for rural outreach at USED; Bob Canavan, Executive director National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition; and Maria Ferguson, former executive director, Center on Education Policy as they kick off this event.</li></ul></li></ul>	12:00 -1:00 p.m. ET
<b><i>Repairing the Teacher Pipeline: A Rural Education Crisis</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Description:</b> During this panel, attendees will receive an in-depth overview of one of the most pressing issues facing rural public school systems, teacher shortages. During this hour-long event: attendees will get the latest information on the trends impacting the educator workforce; learn about how the current COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing inequities concerning students' access to high-quality teachers; and discover what the experts recommend to reverse the nation's current problem of preparing, recruiting, and retaining high-quality educators into our rural communities.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Speakers:</b> Michael DiNapoli Deputy, Director of Federal Policy the Learning Policy Institute; Policy Analyst Victoria Jackson at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities ; and David Ardrey, Executive Direct of the Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools</li></ul></li></ul>	1:00- 1:45 p.m. ET
<b><i>Break</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>N/A</b></li></ul>	1:45-2:00 p.m. ET
<b><i>Rural Connectivity: Internet and Technology Access in Rural Schools and Communities</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Description:</b> This panel discussion, moderated by Education Week's Alyson Klein, will feature experts on federal programs to improve internet access, the state of rural connectivity, and how this plays out in a rural school district.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Speakers:</b> Shirley Bloomfield, CEO, NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association; Corey Williams, lobbyist,</li></ul></li></ul>	2:00 - 3:00 p.m. ET

Session Title	Description and Speakers	Time
	National Education Association; and Quincy Natay, superintendent, Chinle Unified School District, AZ	
<b><i>The Importance of a Federal Investment in Rural Education Research</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four rural education scholars will talk about their federally-funded research and how an investment in rural education research is leading to new directions to address challenges in rural schools including recruitment and retention of rural teachers, the rural STEM educator pipeline, supporting rural ELL and networks to support school change. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Moderators:</b> Daarel Burnette II, Assistant Managing Editor of Education Week</li> <li>○ <b>Speakers:</b> Devon Brenner, Professor of Teacher Education, Mississippi State University and Editor, <i>The Rural Educator</i>; Associate Professor Maria Coady, Irving and Rose Fien Endowed Professor and Associate Professor of ESOL/Bilingual Education at the University of Florida; Jayne Downey, Professor &amp; Director, Center for Research on Rural Education, Montana State University; Jennifer Whitfield, Assistant Head and Instructional Associate Professor of Mathematics, Texas A&amp;M University; and Allen Pratt, Executive Director, National Rural Education Association</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	3 – 4:00 p.m. ET
<b><i>Census and Community Matters for Rural America</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Join education and rural experts as they discuss the myriad challenges these schools and communities face almost daily, including census, supporting tribal communities, access to post-secondary education, mental and emotional health supports, and community schools, among others <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Moderator:</b> Robert Mahaffey, Executive Director of The Rural School and Community Trust</li> <li>○ <b>Speakers:</b> Cara Brumfield, Senior Policy Analyst, Georgetown Center for Poverty &amp; Inequality; Dr. Dreama Gentry, Executive Director at Partners for Education at Berea College; former Tribal Councilman and School Superintendent David Archambault, Sr.; Dr. Kari Oyen, rural school psychologist and current Program Director and Assistant Professor of School Psychology at the University of South Dakota; and Dr. Kennedy Greene, Superintendent for the Newton, New Jersey Public Schools</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

### Questions?

Noelle Ellerson Ng, AASA ([nellerson@aasa.org](mailto:nellerson@aasa.org))

Chris Rogers, AASA ([crogers@aasa.org](mailto:crogers@aasa.org))

John Forkenbrock, OCRE ([jforkenbrock@gmail.com](mailto:jforkenbrock@gmail.com))