



## Regional Economic Development Summit for Northwest Illinois

December 9, 2022

Location: Dining Hall



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

**Lorado Taft Field Campus**

1414 N River Rd, Oregon, IL 61061

# Regional Economic Development Summit for Northwest Illinois | December 9, 2022

## SUMMIT SCHEDULE

---

9:00 a.m. | Summit Registration (breakfast served)

9:15 a.m. | Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Daniel Payette, Executive Director, Blackhawk Hills Regional Council

9:30 a.m. | Workforce, Skills, and a Strong Economy: Making the Most of Your Talent Assets

- Joel Simon, Vice President of Strategy and Growth, Lightcast
- Topics: current workforce and economic development situation, implications for the region, tapping hidden talent pools

10:30 a.m. | Everything Else Falls Apart - The Primacy of Housing

- Panelists
  - Amy Bashiti, Community Revitalization Services Manager, Illinois Housing Development Authority
  - Ashley Sarver, Partner and Senior Urban Planner, StudioGWA
  - Maggy Jares, Executive Project Manager, Lightengale Group
  - Ron Clewer, Illinois Market President, Gorman and Company
- Topics: the state of housing availability and affordability, developing workforce housing, attracting investment in single and multifamily housing

11:30 a.m. | Lunch

11:45 a.m. | For Food, For Life, For Opportunity

- Mim Evans, Senior Research Associate, Northern Illinois University
- Dan Kenney, Founder and Director, DeKalb County Community Gardens
- Topics: diversifying agriculture, sourcing food locally, value-added production

12:15 p.m. | Regional Economic Competitiveness

- Allison Forbes, Vice President of Research, Center for Regional Competitiveness
- Topics: industrial change, trends in education and training, apprenticeships

1:15 p.m. | Conclusion

- Emily Rhodes, Economic Development Representative, Economic Development Administration

## PRE-SUMMIT SCHEDULE

---

8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. | Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee for Northwest Illinois Meeting

A gathering of the CEDS Committee for Northwest Illinois. Attendees will review and discuss contemporary topics.