

Rural Development Institute

Helping Georgia's Rural Communities Thrive



"Mayors, legislators, and elected leaders of every city, town, and village on the Earth must realize that every decision they make should consider the impact, first and foremost, on new jobs."

– Jim Clifton, *The Coming Jobs War*

- The Rural Development Institute is a partnership with the Valdosta State University Center for South Georgia Regional Impact, economic and community development professionals, and local leaders who want to enhance and improve their communities.
- The program will prepare Georgia's rural communities to sustain and grow their economies.
- Community teams will consist of five to six members with representatives from their City Council, County Commission, Economic Development, and other local leadership.
- Team members will complete a community readiness index to identify their opportunities and challenges.
- Each team will work with mentors to identify customized strategies for recruitment and retention, downtown development, retail, local leadership, and community development.
- The Center for South Georgia Regional Impact at Valdosta State University will use university resources and community advisors to implement at least one project in each community at no additional cost.

» **Applications Due:**
APRIL 24

» **Summit:**
JUNE 7 - 9

» **Tuition:**
\$2,500 per community

» **Email:**
darrellmoore@valdosta.edu

To apply, go to www.valdosta.edu/rdi



Center for
SOUTH GEORGIA
REGIONAL IMPACT
VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY