

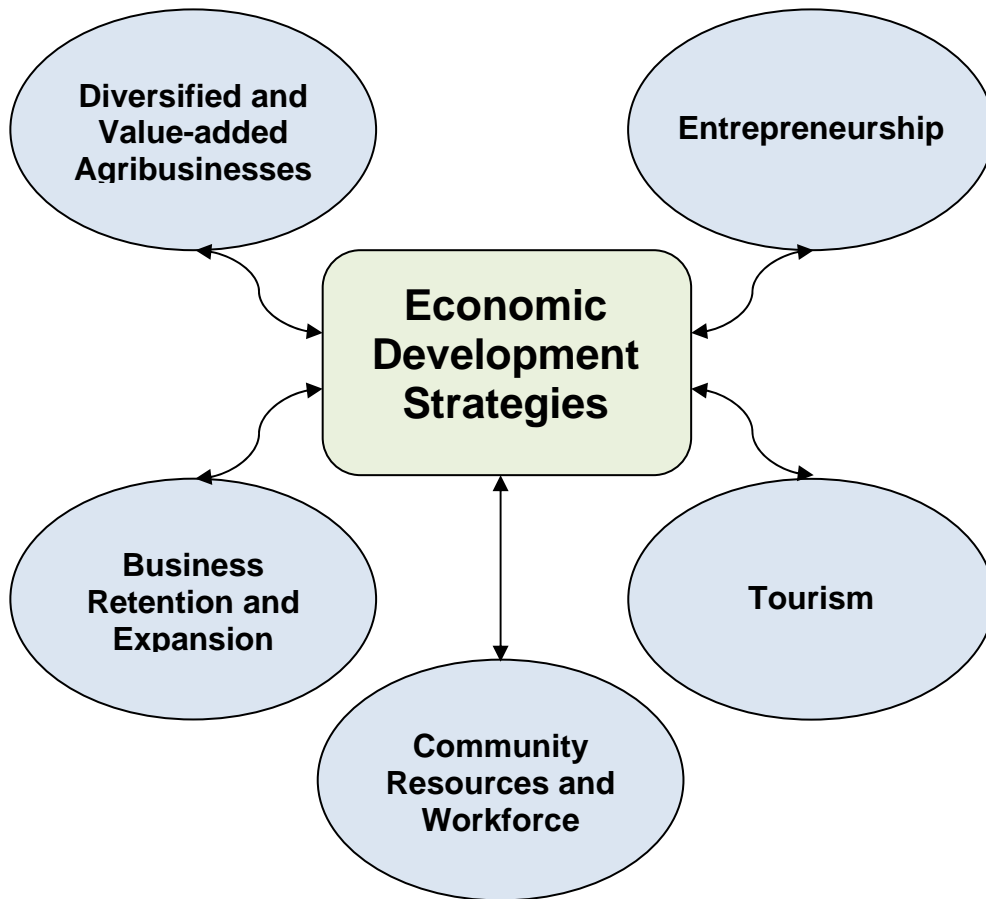
The Program

Rural communities throughout Texas and the nation are facing economic challenges including the loss of jobs, incomes and population. Improving local economies is complicated largely because it is difficult for volunteers to access knowledge and resources necessary for improvement.

CET overcomes these hurdles by matching the needs of communities with research-based educational programs of Texas AgriLife Extension Service, The Texas A&M University System.

The first workshop initiates action in one or more of five economic development strategies proven to transform local economies through job and business venture creation and the enhancement of related community resources. Subsequent annual workshops include sharing community success stories, best practices, lessons learned and project plans.

Faculty will support CET communities by providing data and analyses, assisting with implementation of best practices, providing technical assistance and sharing resources. Faculty and community leaders will work together to formulate strategies that will help grow local economies. Two participants from each community will attend the following workshops:



What is a CET “Community”?

CET communities are defined by the citizens that share a common interest and effort to improve their quality of life and local economy. Communities may include one town, several neighboring municipalities or an entire county. Communities in transition are characterized by residents developing deliberate, planned and continuous proactive approaches to local economic development.



The CET Approach

Consistent with active learning and action-oriented approaches, CET programs include:

- Community self-study and planning for economic diversification;
- Informational materials and technical assistance to help communities implement local plans;
- Local and inter-community workshops and discussion forums;
- Local and project progress monitoring;
- Networks of contacts with a wide variety of groups.



More information

Dr. Greg Taylor
g-taylor4@tamu.edu
979-845-7046
<http://communities.tamu.edu>

Extension CRED Faculty Team:

Joyce Cavanagh, PhD, Family Economics

Greg Clary, PhD, Entrepreneurship & Economic Development

Rebekka Dudensing, PhD, *Community Economic Development*

John Jacob, PhD, *Community Development*

Ashley Lovell, PhD, Economic Development

John L. Park, PhD, Cooperative Marketing and Agribusiness

Miles Phillips, Nature Tourism

Angela Burkham, Youth Entrepreneurship

Michael A. Schuett, PhD, Data Center

Jamie Rae Walker, PhD, Urban Parks,

Roland Smith, PhD, Economist-CRED

Greg Taylor, PhD, Community Development

Mark Waller, PhD, Economist & Associate Department Head, Agricultural Economics

Toby Lepley, Youth Development

Dean McCorkle, Economic Accountability

Emmy Williams, Webmaster



Communities In Economic Transition (CET)

Partnerships for Progress:
Texas Rural Communities
and
Texas AgriLife Extension Service



Extension faculty and local leaders working together to transform rural communities and local economies through community-based planning and a variety of economic development strategies to create jobs, income and public revenues.

<http://communities.tamu.edu>