



In the Region



A WEEKLY SNAPSHOT OF NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND OTHER
TIDBITS FROM THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

ARC NEWS ROUNDUP | August 29, 2019 | VOLUME 4, ISSUE 33

ARC SPOTLIGHT



ARC's Federal Co-Chairman joined Congressman "GT" Thompson and a host of other state partners to discuss the role federal resources play in strengthening local economies in Appalachian Pennsylvania.

Federal Investment Opportunities in Central Pennsylvania

Earlier this week, Federal Co-Chairman Tim Thomas was in Oil City and Ridgeway with U.S. Representative "GT" Thompson (R-PA) and senior level representatives from the [Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Affairs](#) (PADCED), USDA's Rural Development Agency, and the Small Business Administration to discuss how central Pennsylvania communities can continue using federal resources to strengthen local economies. At each stop, the group met with economic development professionals, local elected officials, and others about a variety of available federal opportunities. Among the programs discussed were the Department of Labor's WORC grants targeting economic development in rural communities and [ARC's POWER Initiative](#) for economic diversification in coal-impacted communities. Thomas cited PA Wilds Center for Entrepreneurship which is using ARC support to leverage the area's natural and cultural assets and develop a successful tourism industry cluster, as an example of impactful federal investments. The conversation also focused on economic challenges specific to central Pennsylvania, including changes in mining, manufacturing, and other industry sectors, as well as the economic impact of the region's current substance abuse crisis.

In partnership with PADCED, ARC supported 51 projects in Pennsylvania totaling over \$7.5 million [in fiscal year 2018](#). These investments were matched by more than \$13.7 million and will attract an additional \$64.0 million in leveraged private investments to the state. They will also create or retain more than 9,500 jobs, train and educate nearly 2,590 students and workers, and benefit the 5.8 million residents in Pennsylvania's 52 Appalachian counties. Federal fiscal year 2019 ends on September 30.



INVESTMENTS IN ACTION



ARC support has helped Alabama Launchpad develop targeted outreach strategies to entrepreneurs in Appalachian Alabama.

Appalachian Entrepreneurs Win Awards in Alabama

Since 1991, the [Economic Development Partnership of Alabama \(EDPA\)](#)'s mission is to make Alabama economically attractive and competitive in aerospace, automotive, technology and other industries. With more than 60 state partners, EDPA has added thousands of jobs and millions of dollars to Alabama's economic base to date. EDPA's [Alabama Launchpad](#) initiative, the state's largest virtual accelerator and early seed investor, is specifically focused innovation and job growth through startup competitions and ongoing mentoring. Since the program began in 2006, the Launchpad has invested over \$4 million in 86 Alabama startups. Subsequently, these funded companies are currently valued at more than \$212 million and have created over 500 jobs.

With ARC support, the Launchpad is developing strategic local partnerships and targeted outreach initiative to engage more entrepreneurs from Alabama's eleven Appalachian counties. One of the Launchpad's signature events is an annual statewide pitch competition for entrepreneurs. As part of this program, Launchpad hosts several regional pitch events throughout the year, including one in Tuskegee earlier this spring. At that event, two Appalachian Alabama entrepreneurs -- Kenzie's Creations, a Scottsboro-based custom jewelry business, and Quantalytix, a financial tech company in Birmingham – won seed capital cash awards. This week, Launchpad held its annual statewide pitch competition during EDPA's annual conference, where two Birmingham-based tech

entrepreneurs – Immediate, a software platform offering an alternative to pay-day lending, and Conserv, a software and hardware solution for conservationists – together won \$150,000 in capital investment.



WEB CONTRACTOR OPPORTUNITY



ARC is seeking proposals from qualified contractors to provide Website Design, Development, and Content Migration services for arc.gov.

[Read the RFP](#). Proposals are due at 5 pm ET on **September 16, 2019**.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Join Our Team!

ARC is recruiting for a number positions, including a **Content Writer** and **Program Support Assistant**.

The [Content Writer](#) will serve as ARC's lead writer and editor, working with the communications team to tell compelling stories through press releases, web materials, newsletters, speeches and other materials amplifying ARC's mission and efforts.

The [Program Support Assistant](#), a federal position, will coordinate a variety of administrative and programmatic functions and act as a central point of contact for the Office of the Federal Co-Chair.

For more information on this position, visit www.arc.gov/careers.

APPALACHIA IN THE NEWS

[Farmers: Kentucky's hemp industry could revitalize Eastern Kentucky](#), *WYMT*, Hazard, Kentucky

[New road may serve future industries in Union County](#), *New Albany Gazette*, New Albany, Mississippi

[RCBI awards \\$82,000 in early stage funding to businesses](#), *West Virginia Executive*, Charleston, West Virginia

[Guitars, Jobs and Music: Startup Business Hopes to Build on Mountain Traditions](#), *The Daily Yonder*

[Rural Healthcare Gets ARC Boost](#), *Business Alabama*, Birmingham, Alabama

UPCOMING EVENTS

Finance and the Arts Tourism and Agribusiness Webinar Series

Session Two: Budgeting

11:30 am - 12: 45 pm ET

September 4

Appalachia Strong: An ARC Summit

Asheville, North Carolina

September 4 - 6

2019 National HBCU Week Conference

Washington, D.C.
September 8 - 10

Federal Student Aid Partner Summit - Appalachian Region

Morehead, Kentucky
September 26

Entre-Ed Forum

Lexington, Kentucky
September 27 - 29

Alabama-Mississippi Rural Tourism Conference

Natchez, Mississippi
October 21 - 23

Community Colleges of Appalachia 2019 Conference

Community Colleges: Creating Success in Appalachia
Hazard, Kentucky
October 30 - November 1

Appalachian Gateway Communities Regional Workshop

Bristol, Tennessee
November 5 - 7

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is an economic development agency of the federal government and 13 state governments focusing on 420 counties across the Appalachian Region. ARC's mission is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia to help the Region achieve socioeconomic parity with the nation.



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