

## Monday, July 28th – Day 1

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

**Registration and Breakfast**  
**Ballroom/Main Location**

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

**Plenary – Opening Remarks**  
**Ballroom/Main Location**

Introduction: **Dennis Stripling**, President, DDAA

Speaker: **TBA**

9:15 AM – 10:30 AM

**Breakout Track Sessions 1**

**Marketing your LDD Using Social Media: *Facilitated Roundtable***  
**Room 1**

Instructors:

**TBA**

**AI & the Workforce: *HR Training***  
**Room 2**

To what extent are employers and employees utilizing AI and managing AI integration into the HR function?

Instructor:

**Andrea Hodson**, Human Resources Consultant

**What Makes a Project Suitable for ARC?: *About Partners***  
**Room 3**

- Project Fundamentals – How to Source or Identify ARC Projects
- ARC’s Competitive Programs and Area Development - Key Distinctions
- State and Location Specifics – How these factors might influence funding choices

Instructors:

**ARC Staff**

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM

**Networking Break**  
**TBA**

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

**Breakout Track Sessions 2**

**Grant Management, From Start to Finish: *Facilitated Roundtable***

**Room 1**

Instructors:

**Arlene Young**, Grants Services Consultant, Appalachian Council of Governments

**Jill Charlton**, Senior Project Manager, Appalachian Council of Governments

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**Future of Work: *HR Training***

**Room 2**

Who are the future workers and what will they need from employers?

Instructor:

**Andrea Hodson**, Human Resources Consultant

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**Crash Course: Complex Application Components: *About Partners***

**Room 3**

- Budget and Budget Forms: Breaking a Project Down by Line Item
- Performance Measures: How to identify and translate impact to align with ARC's requirements

Instructors:

**ARC Staff**

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12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

**Lunch**

**Ballroom/Main Location**

Introduction: **Dennis Stripling**, President, DDAA

Speaker: **TBA**

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1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

**Breakout Track Sessions 3**

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**Advocating for Funding at the Federal and State Levels: *Facilitated Roundtable***

**Room 1**

Instructors:

**TBA**

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**Strategies for Staffing: *HR Training***

**Room 2**

What recruitment practices help ensure best hire decisions to meet the staffing requirements of your team?

Instructor:

**Andrea Hodson**, Human Resources Consultant

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**Overcoming Application Barriers and Project Obstacles: *About Staff***

**Room 3**

Including but not limited to:

- Securing necessary project partners
- Securing match, layering or braiding funding from different sources
- PERs/Cost Estimates

Instructors:

**ARC Staff**

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2:15 PM – 2:45 PM

**Networking Break**

**TBA**

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2:45 PM – 4:00 PM

**Breakout Track Sessions 4**

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**Artificial Intelligence, Best Practices for Public Agencies: *Facilitated Roundtable***

**Room 1**

Instructor:

**TBA**

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**Hybrid Work Teams: *HR Training***

**Room 2**

What does it take to get the work done well and effectively with others who work onsite and/or offsite?

Instructor:

**Andrea Hodson**, Human Resources Consultant

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**Post-Award Expectations: How to Successfully Prepare for Grant Administration and Management: *About Partners***

**Room 3**

- Organizational Capacity – What LDDs Can Do to Expand Applicant and Grantee Capacity
- Record Keeping/Data Tracking and Measurement
- Common Audit Issues/Sources

Instructors:

**ARC Staff**

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4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

**Reception**

**TBA**

## Tuesday, July 29<sup>th</sup> – Day 2

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

**Breakfast**  
**Ballroom/Main Location**

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8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

**Opening Session**  
**Ballroom/Main Location**

Introduction: **Dennis Stripling**, President, DDAA

Speaker: **TBA**

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9:15 AM – 10:30 AM

**Breakout Track Sessions 5**

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**Engaging with Public-Private Partnerships – Part 1: Facilitated Roundtable**  
**Room 1**

Instructor:

**Jill Foys**, Executive Director, Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission

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**Performance Conversations: HR Training**  
**Room 2**

Why and how do performance conversations keep your team on track & address performance issues?

Instructor:

**Andrea Hodson**, Human Resources Consultant

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**ARC Office Hours: About Partners**  
**Room 3**

- Office Hours – Q&A/Informal Discussion Time with ARC Staff
- Pathways Intro – What will soon be ARC's New GMS

Instructors:

**ARC Staff**

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10:30 AM – 10:45 AM

**Networking Break**

**TBA**

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10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

**Breakout Track Sessions 6**

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**Engaging with Public-Private Partnerships – Part 2: *Facilitated Roundtable***  
**Room 1**

Instructors:

**Jill Foys**, Executive Director, Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission

**Steve Pelissier**, Executive Director, Appalachian Council of Governments

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**Fringe Benefit Plans: *HR Training***  
**Room 2**

What's the one benefit plan that could be introduced or modified in your benefits program?

Instructor:

**Andrea Hodson**, Human Resources Consultant

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**ARC Office Hours: *About Partners***  
**Room 3**

- Office Hours – Q&A/Informal Discussion Time with ARC Staff
- Pathways Intro – What will soon be ARC's New GMS

Instructors:

**ARC Staff**

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12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

**Lunch**  
**Ballroom/Main Location**

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1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**Site Visit**  
**Mill 19**

Home to the [Catalyst Connection](#) workforce training center, Carnegie Mellon University's [Manufacturing Futures Institute \(MFI\)](#), and the [Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing \(ARM\) Institute](#), Mill 19 is a former steel mill turned manufacturing laboratory and collaborative workspace. This site visit offers LDDs a firsthand look at cutting-edge manufacturing innovation, workforce development initiatives, and economic revitalization efforts that can inform and inspire regional growth strategies.

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4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

**Reception**  
**Ballroom/Main Location**

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