

Like many parts of the United States, rural counties in East Texas and neighboring parishes in Western Louisiana are in the midst of an economic transition. Long dependent on resource-based extractive industries like lumbering, oil and gas production, and poultry raising, communities across the region are discovering that these traditional modes of income generation no longer support the populations that they once did. New ways must be identified to bring economic development to these areas, ways that allow residents of East Texas and Western Louisiana to preserve the parts of their past that they hold dear while adapting to the realities of a twenty-first-century economy.

Toward that end, the Center for Regional Heritage Research (CRHR) at Stephen F. Austin State University is sponsoring this Heritage Development Summit to encourage region-wide dialogue about best practices in incorporating history into economic development planning.

The Heritage Development Summit was made possible in part with a grant from Humanities Texas, the State affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Other co-sponsors include the Department of History, the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis, the School of Social Work and the East Texas Historical Association.



**CRHR**

Center for Regional Heritage Research

<http://www.sfasu.edu/heritagecenter/>

Heritage  
Development  
Summit  
March 8, 2012

Center for  
Regional Heritage  
Research  
Stephen F. Austin  
State University



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## HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

Stephen F. Austin State University

Baker Pattillo Student Center

Nacogdoches, Texas

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### PROGRAM

**REGISTRATION**.....PRESIDENT'S SUITE B  
8:00 A.M.

**WELCOME**.....PRESIDENT'S SUITE B  
8:30 A.M.  
  
Dr. Richard Berry, Provost & Vice President for  
Academic Affairs, Stephen F. Austin State  
University

**Plenary Address**.....REGENT'S SUITE A  
8:45 A.M. - 9:30 A.M.  
  
*Challenges and Opportunities facing  
Rural Communities*  
  
Mr. Dee Davis

**PANEL 1**.....REGENT'S SUITE A  
9:45 A.M. - 10:45 A.M.  
  
*History, Heritage ,and Rural Development*  
  
Moderator: Mr. Bill Bishop  
Mr. Walter G. Diggles, Sr.  
Mr. Robert Johnson  
Mr. Bill King

**BREAK**.....PRESIDENT'S SUITE B  
10:45 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

**PANEL 2**.....REGENT'S SUITE A  
11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.:

*Humanities –Based Approaches to  
Preserving Community Identity*

Moderator: Dr. Kathleen Belanger  
Mr. William McWhorter  
Ms. Cynthia Sutton  
Dr. Jeffery Owens

**LUNCHEON**.....REGENT'S SUITE B  
12:15 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.

*Knowing Who You Are  
By Staying Where You Are:  
The Importance of Heritage and Community*  
  
Dr. Jerry Williams  
**Keynote Address**

### Our Speakers and Panelists

*Mr. Dee Davis*  
Founder and president of the Center for Rural Strategies  
*Mr. Bill Bishop*  
Editor of The Daily Yonder, an online magazine  
dedicated to issues in rural America  
*Dr. Kathleen Belanger*  
Associate Professor, School of Social Work  
*Mr. Walter G. Diggles, Sr.*  
Executive Director of the Deep East Texas Council of  
Governments  
*Mr. Robert Johnson*  
Executive Director, Gladewater Economic Development  
Corporation  
*Mr. Bill King*  
President and CEO, Nacogdoches Economic  
Development Corporation  
*Mr. William McWhorter*  
Texas Historical Commission  
*Dr. Jeffery Owens*  
Professor of History, Tyler Junior College  
*Ms. Cynthia Sutton*  
Executive Director, Cane River National Heritage Area,  
Natchitoches, Louisiana  
*Dr. Jerry Williams*  
Department Chair, Department of Social and Cultural  
Analysis