



Thursday and Friday, September 19-20, 2019

Note meeting locations due to AMC building construction!

Homework: Please bring a digital device that connects to wi-fi for Thursday's session and plan to share what drives the economy where you live.



Wilder Foundation, St. Paul



Upon arrival at the Wilder Foundation, drive into the free parking garage and enter through the main entrance.

Thursday, September 19

Location: Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Pkwy N, St Paul

1:00 p.m.

Welcome & Sharing Homework

Jim McDonough and Deb Gruber, FUTURES Co-Chairs

Please plan to share what drives the economy where you live.

2:00 p.m.

Current State of Minnesota's Agriculture Economy

Kent Thiesse, Senior Vice President/Senior Ag Loan Officer at MinnStar Bank

Kent has over 40 years of experience in farm management and agricultural lending with MinnStar Bank and UM Extension that included a fellowship at the Association of Minnesota Counties. He is responsible for agricultural lending. Kent writes a column titled: *Focus on Ag*. He serves on the Lake Crystal Welcome Memorial School Board, and is active in a variety of organizations, including Independent Bankers of MN, GreenSeam, SCC Center for Agriculture, MN Farm Bureau, MN Famers Union, MN Agri-Growth Council, and Farmfest. Kent has a Bachelor's and Master's degree from University of Minnesota.

3:45 p.m.

Build you Own Data Tool with Minnesota Compass

Jacob Wascalus, Research Scientist at Wilder Research

Jacob seeks to improve community vitality by promoting the use of data and community indicators to better understand trends in different quality-of-life measures. Wilder Research helps communities to thrive by turning information into impact. Wilder helps organizations in Minnesota and the U.S. measure and improve their effectiveness, identify needs and solutions, and make data-informed decisions that improve lives.

5:00 p.m.

Dinner



LODGING: The Best Western Capitol Ridge is offering AMC members a block rate which includes a complimentary hot breakfast. The Best Western Capitol Ridge is located less than a mile from the AMC building at **161 Saint Anthony Avenue, St Paul**.

Please call the front desk directly at (651) 227-8711 or click on this link to book online:

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.24104.html?groupId=B14RI4D4



Thursday and Friday, September 19-20, 2019

5:45 p.m. Leadership Reflections & University of Minnesota's statewide reach
Chris Cramer, Vice President for Research for the University of Minnesota

Dr. Christopher J. Cramer serves as Vice President for Research. In that role, he supports and facilitates research of faculty, staff, and students, and provides strategic direction for ~\$1B/year of annual research spending; this level of expenditure ranks Minnesota 8th in the U.S. Cramer earned his A.B. in Mathematics and Chemistry from Washington University and his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Illinois. His career began with four years of service as an officer in the U.S. Army, including combat duty in Operation Desert Storm, after which he began his academic career at the University of Minnesota, where he also holds the title of Distinguished McKnight and Teaching Professor.

6:45 p.m. Adjourn

Friday, September 20

Location: Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT), 100 Empire Dr #100

8:15 a.m. Welcome, Thursday Debrief, and Coffee
Jim McDonough and Deb Gruber, FUTURES Co-Chairs

9:00 a.m. Child Care as an Economic Driver in Minnesota
Jessica Beyer, Business Development Manager at First Children's Finance

Jessica joined First Children's Finance in January 2015, bringing over 12 years of rural community engagement work through the *Center for Small Towns* at the University of Minnesota, Morris. First Children's Finance helps children, families and communities thrive by increasing the availability, affordability, and quality of early care and education. Jessica manages activities on the west side of Minnesota. She provides leadership for the *Rural Child Care Innovation Program*, financial analysis for child care programs, consulting and training programming for family and center-based programs, and partnerships to identify right-sized solutions for new child care businesses.

10:30 a.m. AMC Futures Committee Input: Strategies for the Upcoming Legislative Session
Julie Ring, Executive Director
Matt Hilgart, Government Relations Manager

Julie and Matt will facilitate a discussion related to the upcoming legislative session and review conversations from the Fall Policy Conference

11:45 a.m. Adjourn

2020 FUTURES Dates

February 6-7 May 14-15 September 24-25