



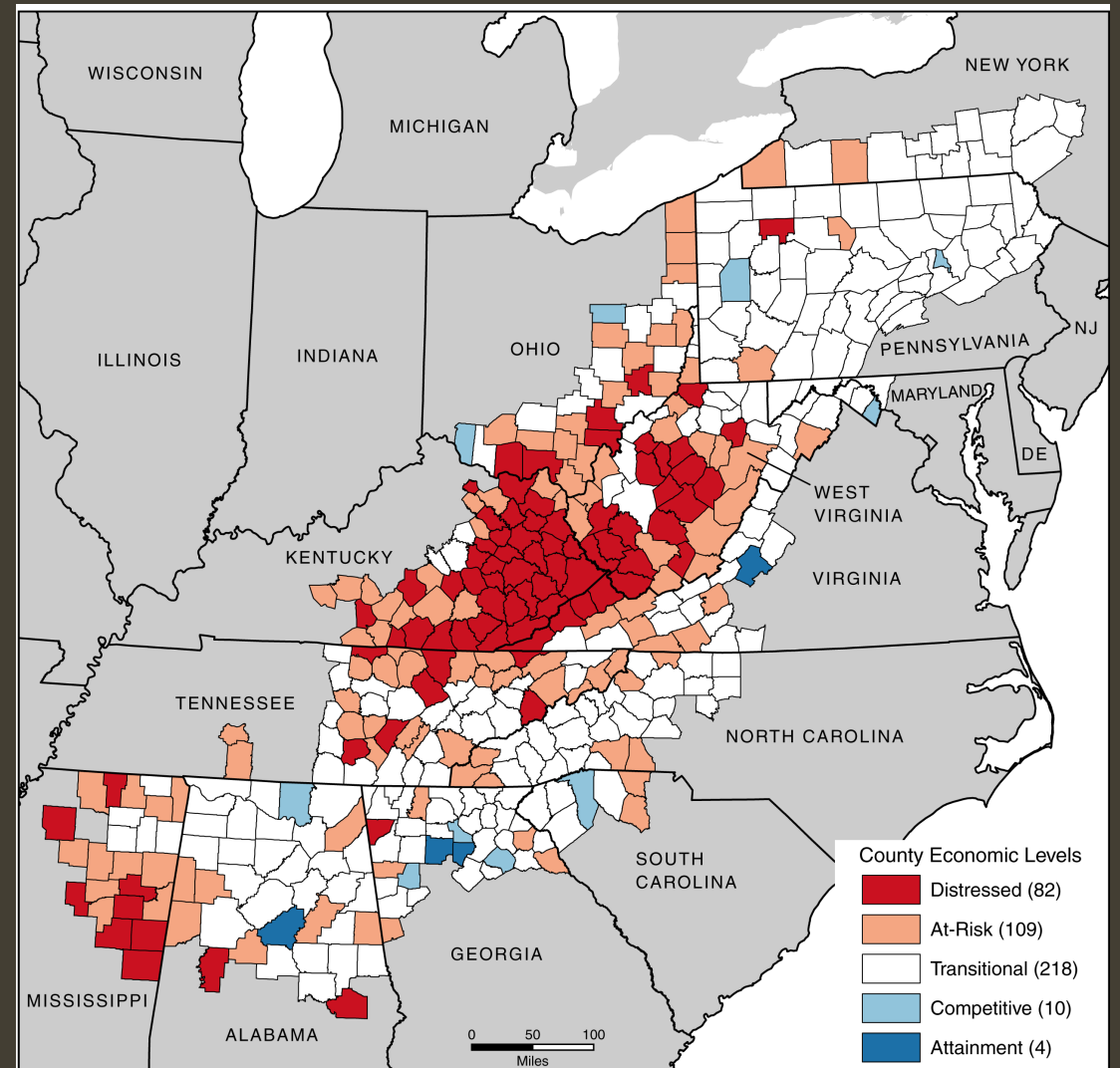
# APPALACHIAN RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT AT ISSE

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# WHY APPALACHIA

- Includes 13 states and is home to almost 26 million people.
- One of the most biodiverse regions on the planet
- Home to vast environmental and economic resources
- Historical energy source for the U.S.
- Significant public lands and a \$60 billion travel industry
- Also among the poorest regions of the U.S.
- UT is the oldest land grant in the region



Created by the Appalachian Regional Commission, June 2022

Data Sources:

Unemployment data: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, LAUS, 2018–2020

Income data: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, LAPI, 2020

Poverty data: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016–2020

Effective October 1, 2022  
through September 30, 2023

# APPALACHIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

- Established in 2019
- Sponsored by The Appalachian Regional Commission
- 40 fellows from 13 ARC states
- Group includes public officials, elected officials, nonprofit leaders, advocates, and business owners.
- Just selected fellows for class 4



# ALI TEAM

- Dr. Tim Ezzell – ISSE
- Cat Wilt – ISSE
- Dr. Katie Cahill – Baker Center
- Dr. Tasha Hargrove – Tuskegee University
- Bruce Decker – Collective Impact LLC
- UT ALI Student Fellow





# PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- Program runs from October to July
- Seven Sessions held across the Region
- Sessions based on ARC's investment goals
- Curriculum emphasizes active and experiential learning
- Sessions include team challenges, breakout discussions, site visits, and expert speakers
- Online during COVID, back in person now



# 2021-2022 SESSIONS

- Kickoff – Asheville NC
- Economic Opportunities – Chattanooga TN
- Ready Workforce – Birmingham AL
- Critical Infrastructure – Youngstown OH
- Natural and Cultural Assets – Abingdon VA
- Capacity Building – Cumberland MD
- Graduation – Washington DC



# SUSTAINABILITY TOPICS

- The coal transition
- Sustainable forestry
- Sustainable tourism
- Public lands
- Electric vehicles
- Green infrastructure
- Climate change impacts





# ALI ALUMNI NETWORK

- Now almost 120 ALI alumni
- Adding 40 per year
- ARC hosts up to 4 alumni events per year
- We have already partnered with alumni and alumni communities on projects and proposals





Tiffany Swigert and Jessie Hunt commented on Jessie Hunt's post.



Jessie Hunt is with Beau Harbin and 12 others.

32m · 🌐

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Today is bittersweet.

Last Summer I applied for the Appalachian Leadership Institute. Something that I truly thought wasn't going to happen for me. To my surprise, I was fortunate enough to be accepted into the program.

As a fellow, I met some AMAZING individuals. Every fellow in the program is a passionate, forward thinking, innovative leader in their community. I am definitely the socialite in most rooms, but the first working group had me all kinds of ways. Nervous, out of sorts, and extremely intimidated.

After lots of discussion, long nights, and several karaoke songs 😊, we became more than colleagues. We are now graduates and great friends!

The institute teaches people to collaborate, think critically, and create change across Appalachia. I challenge you to envision a better Appalachia. What exactly does that look like to you? Whatever that is, work hard to make it happen.

This has been the greatest experience. Can't wait to see you all again!



Tiffany Swigert is with Bruce Decker and 5 others.

3h · 🌐

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It's hard to find the right words to adequately describe the impact that the [Appalachian Regional Commission's Leadership Institute](#) has had on my professional and personal life over the last year. I have had the honor and privilege to get to know some of the most passionate and brilliant minds to serve our Region! Happy Graduation Day to all of the 2019-2020 Fellows! 🎓 The opportunities we've had 🎉 and the ones that we will have with the new Fellows 🎧!



Jenny Totten is with Jesse E. Turner.

1h · 🌐

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Warning: novel forthcoming.

The ARC Leadership Institute inaugural class came to a close this evening. A lot of my WV friends know a little secret- it took an act of Congress and two McDowell community members already having written letters of support for me before I even considered applying. I'm an introvert by nature, and was terrified of being singled out. I'm socially awkward, I either don't talk, get really excited and talk too much, or spout off random bits of weird information that I'm sure nobody cares about. And an amazing fellow introvert at the development office listened to all of my excuses and told me if I didn't fill out the application, he was going to do it for me. We made a plan, I emailed both of my bosses, and I was off and running through the application process.

When I was selected, knowing who else in WV had applied, I wondered "why me?" Everything happens for a reason and I whole heartedly believe that you are handed gifts when you most need them.

This group pushed me out of my comfort zone (maybe too much sometimes), exposed me to parts of Appalachia that were brand new or unexplored, renewed my love affair of working in Central Appalachia, and introduced me to 39 other people who are also working to better the region. I saw in action that it is possible to disagree on things, and still move forward with development work. I saw successes and valued the authentic stories told of the way work was completed. For the first time in awhile, I saw that there are others like me out there who are digging in deep, solving problems creatively, and dealing with community conflict. And I learned that it's ok to lead from within and to be a quiet voice of power. And that my style of leadership may not be traditional, and it may look messier and be far less polished, but it gets the same work done.

This has been by far the best professional development I have been involved in during my career. My only regret is that we could not spend more time together in person sharing and learning from one another. I look forward to seeing you all in person soon at alumni events and sooner than that virtually at our graduation.

👍❤️ Bruce Decker, Jenny Totten and 22 others

10 Comments Seen by 35

👍 Like

💬 Comment

# APPALACHIAN TEACHING PROJECT

- Established in 2020, UT a founding participant
- Engages college students across Appalachia in community-based research projects
- Students travel to DC to present at the end of the semester
- Sponsored by the ARC
- 2022 will be my 20<sup>th</sup> ATP class





# MY ATP APPROACH

- Class is a practicum in community development
- Students develop the work plan, set the timeline and develop a budget
- Students work in teams to complete tasks
- Students met with local stakeholders and residents
- Most class sessions are like staff meetings
- Many alumni credit the class with helping them get invaluable experience and gain confidence.



# LAST YEAR'S CLASS

- Evaluated EV infrastructure along ADHS highway corridors in Tennessee
- Surveyed local residents and EV owners about needs and perceptions
- Conducted fields research, driving Evs the length of three corridors
- Identified potential charger locations and design priorities
- Presented at a virtual ATP conference
- Purchased an EV charger for the town of Cumberland Gap TN





# CURRENT CLASS

- Will use the Cumberland Gap charger to determine potential economic benefits of a level 2 charger in a small destination community
- Will examine ways to promote EV tourism
- Will develop strategies to promote outdoor recreation in Cumberland Gap

