



**Texas Forest Country Partnership
2021 Annual Economic Development Summit**

**BUILDING TEXAS FOREST COUNTRY!
Post Pandemic Economic Growth**

Fredonia Hotel & Convention Center
Tuesday, October 26, 2021 – 8:00 am-3:45 pm
200 North Fredonia Street – Nacogdoches, Texas 75961

8:00 am

Registration and Booths Open

8:30 am

Opening Ceremonies/Welcome/Introductions

Eddie Hopkins, *TFCP Chair,*
Jasper Economic Development Corporation Executive Director

Opening Prayer/Lunch Blessing

Christi Sullivan, *TFCP Past Chair*

Posting of the Colors

Pledges

Art Bedford, *SMSGT, USAF, RET, San Augustine*

National Anthem

Rikki Leigh Willoughby, *Red House Winery, Nacogdoches*

Welcome

The Honorable Jimmy Mize, *City of Nacogdoches Mayor*

9:00 am

Session 1 – Rural Broadband Opportunities

Lonnie Hunt, *Deep East Texas Council of Governments*

Economic Development District Executive Director

Introduction by Cathy Bennett, *TFCP Secretary, City of Ivanhoe Mayor*

9:30 am

FEATURED SPEAKER

Session 2 – Life After COVID

Labor Market Trends & Practices to Ponder Post Pandemics

Rich Froeschle, *Texas State Technical College*

Senior Labor Market Economist

Introduction by Roger Lindsey, *TFCP Treasurer, ONCOR Area Manager*

10:30 am

Break

10:45 am

Session 3 – Building Business in Deep East Texas

Glenn Hamer, *Texas Association of Business President & CEO*

Introduction by John Camp, *TFCP Vice Chair,*

Grundfos Americas Senior Category Manager

11:15 am

Silver Bucket Award – Ed Few, Jasper County (Posthumously)

Presenting Sponsor Southside Bank

Ryan Reeve, *Southside Bank Jasper Market Vice President*

11:30 am

Lunch

2020/2021 Board Recognitions & Annual Meeting

Inaugural Chair's Award

Eddie Hopkins, *TFCP Chair*

12:30 pm

Keynote

Adriana Cruz, *Office of the Governor Economic Development & Tourism*
Executive Director

Introduction by *The Honorable Robert Nichols, Texas State Senator*

1:00 pm

Session 4 – State of Workforce in the Texas Forest Country Region

Aaron Demerson, *Texas Workforce Commission*

Commissioner Representing Employers

Panelist to Include:

Mark Durand, *Deep East Texas Workforce Solutions Executive Director*

Joey Garza, *Angelina Forest Products Human Resources Director*

Introduction by Nancy C. Windham, *TFCP President & CEO*

1:30 pm

Session 5 – “Lead, Build, Grow”

TFCP Region Legislative Delegation

The Honorable Robert Nichols, *Texas Senate District 3*

The Honorable Trent Ashby, *Texas House District 57*

The Honorable Ernest Bailes, *Texas House District 18*

The Honorable Travis Clardy, *Texas House District 11*

The Honorable Chris Paddie, *Texas House District 9*

The Honorable James White, *Texas House District 19*

Moderator Lonnie Hunt, DETCOG

2:30 pm

Adjourn Summit

Eddie Hopkins, *TFCP Chair*

2:45 pm

Post Party

(Special Business Roundtable Discussions)

TFCP Region Legislative Delegation

Office of the Governor Economic Development & Tourism

Texas Workforce Commission

Commissioner Representing Employers

Texas Association of Business

Texas Forestry Association

Texas Department of Agriculture

Deep East Texas Workforce Solutions

Small Business Development Center

Stephen F. Austin State University

Angelina College

East Texas Manufacturing Alliance/Regional Businesses

Regional Independent School Districts

3:45 pm

Post Party

Roundtable Discussions Conclude