

# Alberta Rural Education Symposium 2018

## --Building Healthy Rural Communities

Presented By: Emily Pilloton, Dr. Jody Carrington, Minister's Panel Discussion, Dr. Mara C. Tieken, Dr. Hobart L. Harmon, Dr. Michael Corbett, Dr. Kai Schafft & Conversation with Deputy Minister Curtis Clarke and Alberta Education Staff

### Date(s):

Sunday, March 04, 2018  
6:45 PM - 10:00 PM

Monday, March 05, 2018  
8:30 AM - 4:15 PM

Tuesday, March 06, 2018  
8:30 AM - 1:00 PM

### Session Location:

Fantasyland Hotel & Conference Centre  
17700 - 87 Avenue, Edmonton, AB

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### Registration Fee:

\$420.00

**Audience:** Administration

**Grade Level:**

### About the Session:

The theme of ARES 2018 is, "Building Healthy Rural Communities". Many rural areas experience challenges in securing supports and there are countless stories about how services like mental health are very difficult to find in many rural communities. Together with our partners, we will learn about the services that are available in rural Alberta. At the same time, we will find out what services are needed to support rural communities and how to develop strategies that will ensure that our rural communities receive equitable services when compared to our urban counterparts.

Sunday evening Ministerial Panel: Minister Eggen will be accompanied by a panel of Ministers to provide information on the work of government to support rural Alberta communities. Time will be available to pose questions to the various Minister's in attendance. Following the Minister's Panel, a Minister's Reception will allow participants to engage Ministers and MLA's in one on one conversations.

The Agenda will be posted on the ARES website

[www.albertaruraleducation.ca](http://www.albertaruraleducation.ca)

If you are booking a hotel room at the Fantasyland Hotel, call 780-444-3000 or toll free 1-800-737-3783 and please state that you are attending the **Alberta Rural Education Symposium** or mention the code **#4919395** to obtain the negotiated rate.

### About the Presenter(s):

#### Emily Pilloton

Opening Keynote with Q & A Emily Pilloton is the founder and executive director of Project H Design, a nonprofit design and architecture agency that uses the power of design and hands-on building to catalyze communities and public education from within. See full profile below: [https://consortium.tools/uploads/3/files/emily\\_pilloton\\_profile.pdf](https://consortium.tools/uploads/3/files/emily_pilloton_profile.pdf)

### **Dr. Jody Carrington**

Closing Keynote Jody is a passionate believer in the power of the relationship in our classrooms, where some of the most important work on the planet takes place. This becomes especially true in our rural communities where sometimes our educators become the safest place for our babes to “land”.

### **Minister's Panel Discussion**

Sunday evening: Minister Eggen will be accompanied by a panel of Ministers to provide information on the work of government to support rural Alberta communities. Time will be available to pose questions to the various Minister's in attendance. Following the Minister's Panel, a Minister's Reception will allow participants to engage Ministers and MLA's in attendance in one on one conversations.

### **Dr. Mara C. Tieken**

Concurrent Session Presenter Mara Casey Tieken is an associate professor of education at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. Her research focuses on racial and educational equity in rural schools and communities. Her book *Why rural schools matter* (University of North Carolina Press, 2014), an ethnographic study of two rural southern communities, examines how rural schools define and sustain their surrounding communities. She is currently working on a multi-year project, supported by a grant from the Spencer Foundation, that explores the college aspirations, transitions, and persistence of rural, first-generation students. Mara also studies community organizing for education reform and works with the Annenberg Institute for School Reform, where she supports organizing efforts in rural New England. Mara is the 2016 recipient of the Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement for Early Career Faculty. Before receiving her doctorate from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Mara taught elementary school in rural Tennessee.

### **Dr. Hobart L. Harmon**

Concurrent Session Presenter In joining VASS, Dr. Harmon brings extensive experience as an independent consultant in educational planning, research and evaluation. He is one of the nation's leading experts on public education in rural America. Dr. Harmon held an adjunct Associate Professor of Education (Educational Leadership) appointment in the Department of Education Policy Studies at Penn State University, where he affiliated with the Center on Rural Education and Communities.

### **Dr. Michael Corbett**

Concurrent Session Presenter Michael Corbett works in the School of Education at Acadia University. From 2015-to the beginning of 2018 he served as Professor of Rural and Regional Education at the University of Tasmania. Corbett has studied of rural outmigration, youth educational decision-making, the politics of educational assessment, literacies in rural contexts, improvisation and the arts in education, the position of rural identities and experiences in education, conceptions of space, place and mobilities, the viability of small rural schools, "wicked" policy problems and controversies in education, and the use of film and video as a literate medium in schools. He has published widely for academic audiences contributing more than 200 books, scholarly articles, reviews, book chapters, reports, conference presentations and invited addresses. Corbett works both with rural communities and schools in Australia and Canada as well as doing international comparative work.

### **Dr. Kai Schafft**

Concurrent Session Presenter Dr. Schafft is an Associate Professor of Education at The Pennsylvania State University based within the Educational Leadership Program. Dr. Schafft directs the College's Center for Rural Education and Communities and serves as associate editor for the *Journal of Research in Rural Education*. He comes to Penn State from Cornell University where he received his Ph.D. in Development Sociology in 2003. His research interests broadly concern the relationship between social inequality, spatial inequality and rural development. His recent work examines the school and community impacts of unconventional gas development within Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale play. Dr. Schafft has also conducted research on rural poverty, student transiency, the determinants of rural childhood obesity, youth aspirations and rural brain drain, and the role of schools in rural community development. During the spring of 2015 Dr. Schafft was a visiting fellow at Central European University's Institute for Advanced Studies in Budapest, Hungary where he conducted research on the social and political implications of Hungary's nationality self-government system for Hungary's Roma minority.

### **Conversation with Deputy Minister Curtis Clarke and Alberta Education Staff**

Dr. Curtis Clarke and staff will participate alongside delegates in a conversation designed to consider different ways our system can support Rural High Schools to be innovative, creative and sustainable.