

# Homegrown Leaders

PRESENTED BY THE N.C. RURAL CENTER

The single most important factor in the future of communities is the presence of highly skilled, highly motivated leaders who are committed to bringing about positive change in today's challenging economic environment. The N.C. Rural Center, in partnership with the Southwestern Commission and Southwestern Community College, is offering Homegrown Leaders, a regional leadership training to up to 35 elected officials, government staff, nonprofit and faith-based leaders, business leaders, economic development professionals and other community-minded people working or living in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon or Swain counties.

By participating in Homegrown Leaders, you will:

- Increase your understanding of data and trends in your region
- Improve your leadership and team-building skills
- Increase your understanding of comprehensive community economic development
- Learn skills in effective collaboration at the local and regional levels
- Increase your knowledge of resources available to your community and how to access them
- Build a regional network of community leaders that promotes peer learning, resource sharing and collaboration

Homegrown Leaders is a regional extension of the Rural Center's nine-day Rural Economic Development Institute (REDI), which takes a broader and deeper approach into rural economic development and leadership development.

Homegrown Leaders Fall 2016 Schedule:

- October 12 – Southwestern Community College, Sylva
- November 16 – Museum of the Cherokee Indian, Cherokee
- December 17 – Entegra Bank, Franklin

To apply, visit [www.southwesterncc.edu/sbc](http://www.southwesterncc.edu/sbc) . For more information on Homegrown Leaders, please contact Sarah Thompson at [sarah@regiona.org](mailto:sarah@regiona.org) or Misty Herget at [mherget@ncruralcenter.org](mailto:mherget@ncruralcenter.org).

