

RURAL SUPPORT PARTNERS

MANAGEMENT, STRATEGY, AND EVALUATION.

“What Might I Learn as a Rural Fellow?”

Skills

Communication and Writing

- Writing and communication for a professional audience
- Preparation for clear, concise conversations
- How to write in multiple voices
- Pulling out and summarizing key ideas from complex conversations
- Graphic design and layout
- Grant-writing and reporting
- Editing and attention to detail
- Creating and adapting templates

Meeting Design and Facilitation

- Agenda development/event design and logistics
- Facilitation techniques
- Understanding group dynamics – sensitivity to personal and group interactions and histories
- Prepping for and debriefing from meetings
- Managing time in a group setting
- Taking good notes – documentation

Technology

- Using multi-media collaboration tools
- Videography and video editing
- Using social media tools in a professional context
- Website management

Professional Skills

- Efficient time management and work planning
- High-level organizational skills and methods
- Multi-tasking and switching back and forth between tasks effectively

Project Management

- Managing a team of very busy people
- Working with and managing other leaders

Research

- Qualitative and quantitative data analysis, organization and presentation
- How to use resources like the US Census, USDA ERS, Ag Census, Open GIS, etc.

Business/Non-profit Management

- Creating and managing budgets and cash flow
- Invoicing and expenses
- Developing contracts and MOUs

Content Knowledge

- Current trends in rural economic development, and the people and models involved
- Theories and practical implementation techniques of collaboration and network-building
- Theories and understanding of social justice
- Food systems knowledge
- How philanthropy works
- Organizations and foundations that exist in the region, and their roles and skills/specialties

Personal/Leadership Development

- Professionalism
- Management of/participation in a team
- Confidence to collaborate effectively – ownership of the work without attachment
- Cultural sensitivity and awareness of multiple forms of oppression
- Engaging without judgment or assumptions
- How to work with partners who are challenging
- Awareness of roles and objectives in every interaction
- Clear and honest communication
- How to represent an organization in public
- Networking opportunities
- Stress management

This document was created by Mary Snow, Noah Wilson, and Katy Allen in May 2012 to provide an overview of the skills, knowledge, and personal development that we have gained through the RSP Rural Fellowship Program.