Thinking “Bigger” About Smaller Places: Capturing the “Adjacent Possible” Innovations

Presented to the

Coal-Reliant Communities Innovation Challenge Workshop
Pikeville, Kentucky
April 23, 2015

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Three Questions:

Innovating What?

Diversifying How?

Transitioning Where?
“All great truths begin as blasphemies.”

-George Bernard Shaw
Innovating What?

How “we” consider “we”

How we “see” our region

How we “consider” our options

How we support the “connectors”
Diversifying How?

In our vision of the future

In our sense of possibility

In our actions and alignments

In our new collaborations

In our narrative and networks
Transitioning Where?
The Framework for Regional Rural Innovation

Critical Internal Considerations

- Wealth Creation, Intergenerational Wealth Retention, and Appropriate Wealth Distribution
- Youth Engagement, Retention, and Leadership Development
- Social Inclusion and Social Equity Considerations
- Specific Attention to Social Mobility and Inequality
Eight Forms of Rural Health

- Physical
- Financial
- Natural
- Human
- Intellectual
- Social
- Cultural
- Political
LEAVING THE LAND

China’s Great Uprooting: Moving 250 Million Into Cities

Articles in this series look at how China’s government-driven effort to push the population to towns and cities is reshaping a nation that for millennia has been defined by its rural life.

Promoting Growth in All Regions
…but not necessarily faster growth

Only 45% of metro-regions grow faster than the national average. Metro-regions appear to have entered in a process of convergence.

…signs of inefficiencies appear in significant number of metro-regions…
Contributions to aggregate growth depend on few hub regions…

…the fat tail is equally important - if not more - to aggregate growth…
NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT

Collective Impact

Large-scale social change requires broad cross-sector coordination, yet the social sector remains focused on the isolated intervention of individual organizations.

By John Kania & Mark Kramer | 90 | Winter 2011

See also:
Five Conditions for Collective Impact Success

I. Common Agenda
   - Shared vision for change

II. Mutually Reinforcing Activities
   - Differentiated, but still coordinated

III. Backbone Organization
   - Serves entire initiative, coordinating participating organizations, firms and agencies
Five Conditions for Collective Impact Success (cont’d)

IV. Continuous Communication
- Consistent, open, unmediated

V. Rigorous and Shared Measurement
- Collecting predictive indicators, regional data: then measuring ongoing results consistently
“What lies behind us, and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson
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