

# COMMUNITY-BASED ADJUSTMENT TO TEXTILE PLANT CLOSURE AND DOWNSIZING

A conference of the Center for the Study of the American South

Location: **Carolina Inn, Chapel Hill, NC.**

Date: **8-9 April 2004**

Convenors: Patrick Conway (919-966-5376)  
Alfred Field, Jr. (919-966-5347)

## **Schedule of Events, 8 April:**

1:00 – 1:20 pm: Registration.

1:20 – 1:30 pm: Welcome to participants by Chancellor James Moeser of UNC-Chapel Hill.

1:30 – 3:00 pm: **Interactive session on the business decision to downsize.**

- Paper: “When do Firms Downsize?”  
Author: Patrick Conway, Professor of Economics at UNC-Chapel Hill
- Discussants:  
Lee Sullivan, General Manager, Freudenberg Non-wovens Group.  
Dr. David Buchanan, site director of National Textiles Center, Raleigh.
- Small-group activity to identify an “early warning system” for plant downsizing and a menu of ex ante responses valuable at the community level.

3:30 – 5:30 pm: **Community Response to Mill Closings in Spindale.**

Paper: “A Short History of Stonecutter Mills and Spindale, North Carolina”.  
Authors: Tim Barth (City Manager, Spindale) and Duncan Murrell

- Discussants:  
Pat Everhart, Director, Job Training and Development Center,  
Davidson County.  
Rick Carlisle, Managing Partner, Dogwood Equity Partners
- Group derivation of a list of lessons learned in the Spindale history.

6:00 pm: **Drinks and Dinner, with speaker Dr. Kathy Brittain White.**

Dr. Kathy Brittain White is President and Chairman of the Board of Arkansas Rural Sourcing, Inc., a non-profit organization developing information technology employment in rural communities. She also founded the Horizon Institute of Technology to support technology outreach initiatives in the Arkansas Delta.

## **Schedule of events, 9 April.**

8:30 – 9:00 am: Refreshments and reorientation.

9:00 – 10:30 am: **The Kannapolis model: what have we learned?**

- Paper: “Community Response to the Pillowtex Textile Kannapolis Closings: The “Rapid Response” Team as a Facilitative Device.”  
Authors: Myra Beatty (former coordinator of NC Governor’s Rapid Response team) and Doug Longman
- Discussants:  
William Schweke, Research Director, Corporation for Enterprise Development  
Jesse White, Senior Advisor to the Chancellor for Economic Development, UNC-Chapel Hill
- Small-group work to identify the important contributions of the Rapid Response approach.

11:00 am – 12:30 pm: **Community-based Paradigms for Addressing Plant Closures.**

Paper: “Anticipating and Engaging the Need for Economic Change: A Summary of Efforts“

Authors: Andrew Dobelstein, Professor of Social Work at UNC, and Alfred Field, Professor of Economics at UNC.

- Discussants  
Jim Clinton, Executive Director, Southern Growth Policies Board.  
Valeria Lee, Executive Director, Golden Leaf Foundation
- Group discussion to identify the lessons learned from our experience with plant downsizing and to define an agenda for further research on these issues.

12:30 pm: Farewells

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS, INCLUDING DR. KATHY BRITAIN WHITE, THE ALFRED P. SLOAN FOUNDATION, THE ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT OF UNC-CHAPEL HILL AND THE SOUTHERN GROWTH POLICIES BOARD.