



RURAL RENEWAL INITIATIVE

Seeking Nominations: Rural Renewal Citizenship Prize

The [Rural Renewal Initiative](#) inspires, empowers, and coordinates rural renewal research at Oklahoma State University and beyond. The Rural Renewal Initiative supports interdisciplinary research by funding seed grant projects seeking to improve the lives of people in rural communities and providing them with trained student research scholars to lead community-engaged and participatory research.

The Rural Renewal Initiative will host its annual **Rural Renewal Symposium** in Stillwater, Oklahoma, on October 5, 2022, to expand and empower its network of collaborating faculty, students, and community leaders. The symposium will feature the research of faculty, scholars, and other technical and social scientists who have conducted research in and for rural communities. At the symposium, the Rural Renewal Initiative will award the **Rural Renewal Citizenship Prize**. Nominations are sought for this award to honor a leader who has made an important contribution to the renewal of one or more rural communities in Oklahoma. This Prize is designed to recognize a person who shows true leadership qualities, is an exceptional role model, promotes community welfare, and advocates for community needs. This award seeks to highlight the work done by rural community members to improve their own community.

Previous Rural Renewal Citizenship Prize Winners

2021 JaNae Barnard, Executive Director, Major County Economic Development Corporation
2020 Karen Wages, CEO Poteau Chamber of Commerce, Poteau, Oklahoma

Nomination materials include:

1. A one- or two-page **letter of nomination** including the nominee's name, an explanation of the nominee's contributions to rural renewal, and other information which might be helpful to the review committee. The name, address, email, and phone number of the person making the nomination should also be included;
2. A one- or two-page **resume** for the individual nominated, which showcases the nominee's work in rural communities. This can include, but is not limited to, educational background, places of employment, volunteer activities, organizational involvement, special projects undertaken, awards received, and other information which might assist the review committee; and
3. Two one-page **letters of support** for the nominee that demonstrate his or her work and its impact on rural communities.

The nominating materials must be combined into **a single file** (.pdf or .docx) and sent to ruralrenewal@okstate.edu by **September 1, 2022**. The nominations will be reviewed by a team of OSU faculty. The winner will be notified by September 15, 2022.

The awardee must participate **in person** in the Rural Renewal Symposium, giving a brief acceptance speech, on October 5, 2022, in Stillwater, Oklahoma. The Prize will include a \$1,000 stipend.