Challenges of Rural Training for Research and Practice

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Outstanding Presenters Today

• Michael Blank  -- University of Pennsylvania  -- researcher
• Michael Enright  -- Jackson Hole, WY – rural practitioner
• Julie Owens  -- Ohio University  -- researcher/practitioner/collaboration
Three Challenges

• Definitions: Not something we’re not
• Understanding the larger context
• Careful definition of self to work in rural areas
Definitions of ‘rural’ are important

• Important to not be something we’re not
  – Rural areas are more than not urban

• Diversity of rural America
  – Enormous variability across regions
  – Economic, social, political, religious

• Diversity within rural America

• Political importance of bringing together diverse aspects of rural areas
Understanding the Larger Context

• Rural communities as systems of relationships
• Composed of many subsystems
• With a history
• And a culture
Careful Definition of Self

• Self-definition influences presentation in community
• Determines posture taken toward community
• Recognition of boundaries in personal and professional pursuits
Training for Development of Self

- Responsibility of training program?
- Methods of supporting personal development
- Moving toward a healthy workforce