The Northeast Rural Districts Research Alliance at REL Northeast & Islands and CASDA at the University at Albany are co-hosting this daylong research symposium to engage practitioners and researchers in critical dialogue about priority issues in rural education with a focus on rural school and community well-being.

The day will begin with a REL Northeast & Islands Bridge Event designed to explore emerging research and policy on this issue. Keynote speaker Dr. Kai Schafft, associate professor of education and director of the Center on Rural Education and Communities at Penn State, will begin with a presentation on the rural school-community relationship and research on the impact of outmigration on the well-being of rural schools and communities.

Dr. Schafft will also discuss the connection between outmigration and rural youth aspirations and engage participants in a dialogue about strategies to increase access to and the value of higher education for learners in the rural Northeast. A series of breakout sessions will focus on topics related to rural school and community well-being, higher education aspirations and success, kindergarten preparedness, and the development and sustaining of systems needed to support rural schools and districts. Sessions are designed to encourage networking between rural practitioners and rural education researchers and to identify critical rural education topics for further research.

**Featured Presenter:**

**Kai Schafft**
PhD, Director, Center on Rural Education and Communities, and Associate Professor of Education, The Pennsylvania State University

**Moderator:**

**Pamela Buffington**
PhD, Facilitator, Northeast Rural Districts Research Alliance

**FREE Admission!**

Register online at: