

The Honorary Host Committee

Of

The 2009 Return to Roots Celebration

Cordially Invites You to Commemorate
The Third Anniversary of the Launch of

www.ReturnToRoots.org

Held in conjunction with

The 2009 Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion

On

Friday, September 18, 2009

At Five-Thirty in the Evening

The Bristol Trainstation
150 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Bristol, Virginia

Business Casual Attire Recommended



RETURN to ROOTS

In 2006, Governor Tim Kaine launched the Return to Roots program. Funded by the Virginia Tobacco Commission, this program sought to find those native sons and daughters who left home for educational and job related opportunities in a pilot ten-county region.

Now, three years later, **Return to Roots** has a presence in the 21 counties and independent cities that make up Virginia's Great Southwest! With over 3,000 registrants from 47 states and six countries, the Return to Roots website is growing every day. In the past six months, positions hired through the program have created \$446,000 worth of total income per year. The **Return to Roots** program allows

the world to see Southwest Virginia differently than before—it shows the rest of the world the opportunities and quality of life Southwest Virginia offers. Visitors to the

website come from all 50 states and 92 countries and territories, such as Malaysia, Canada and the U.K. Not only are people just looking to come home, organizations are looking at

Return to Roots as a model program. Return to Roots was recognized as a Top 50 Semifinalist in the 2009 Harvard University's Kennedy School's Ash Institute's Innovation in American Government Award and has been featured in the internationally read Intelligent Community Forum Blog, to name a few. New career options and business opportunities await all who want to be in Southwest Virginia. Start planning your move today! Register online at

www.ReturnToRoots.org to learn more and stay informed about upcoming job and business opportunities.

If you know of a friend or relative who has moved away, tell them about Return to Roots. Not just for a visit — for a lifetime.

www.ReturnToRoots.org



RETURN to ROOTS

Three years ago, a group of individuals from Southwest Virginia decided on a strategy to begin recruiting people back to the region to accept career opportunities. That strategy became known as Return to Roots.

The following individuals have been instrumental in maintaining that effort:

Shannon Blevins, Director of Economic Development , University of Virginia's College at Wise

Dan Drummond, Director of Public Affairs, Burson-Marsteller

Rachel Fowlkes, Executive Director, Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center

Carl Mitchell, President & CEO, Virginia Economic Bridge

Glen "Skip" Skinner Executive Director, LENOWISCO Planning District Commission

Stephanie Surrett, Project Manager, Virginia Department of Business Assistance

Ed Whitmore, Retired Smyth County Administrator

www.ReturnToRoots.org

Honorary Host Committee

The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine

The Honorable William T. "Bill" Bolling

The Honorable William C. "Bill" Mims

The Honorable Frederick Carlyle "Rick" Boucher

The Honorable Jim Webb

The Honorable Mark R. Warner

The Honorable William C. Wampler, Jr.

The Honorable John S. Edwards

The Honorable W. Roscoe Reynolds

The Honorable Phillip P. Puckett

The Honorable Ralph Smith

The Honorable Joseph P. Johnson, Jr.

The Honorable Clarence E. "Bud" Phillips

The Honorable Ward L. Armstrong

The Honorable Terry G. Kilgore

The Honorable James M. Shuler

The Honorable Dave Nutter

The Honorable Charles "Bill" W. Carrico, Sr.

The Honorable Anne Crockett-Stark

The Honorable Daniel C. Bowling

The Honorable Charles Poindexter

The Honorable Daniel F. "Dan" Drummond



RETURN
to **ROOTS**

www.ReturnToRoots.org

Celebrate Bristol's Musical Heritage

9th annual Bristol
**Rhythm & Roots
Reunion**

September
18-20, 2009

historic downtown
bristol tn/va

Award Winning Artists

3 Outdoor Stages, 15 Indoor Venues

Dance Tent, Chili Cook-off, Crafts,
5K Run/2 Mile Walk, Children's Events,
Food Courts & More

**Bristol
Rhythm & Roots
Reunion**

celebrating Bristol's
musical heritage...

for tickets, schedules & information:
www.bristolrhythm.com

423.573.4898



Friday, September 18

The Peter Rowan Bluegrass Band, Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit, And The Moneynotes, Kindling Stone, The Coal Men, The John Cowan Band, James Hand, Corey Harris & The 5x5 Band, Holy Ghost Tent Revival, Hoots and Hellmouth, Junior League Band, M.S.G. - The Acoustic Blues Trio, Nathan Blake Lynn, Tim O'Brien, Paleface, Rum Drum Rumlbers, Sarah Siskind, Boulder Acoustic Society, Pete Kartsounes Band, The Ryan McGiver Trio, The New Familiars, Old Line Skiffle Combo, Ian Thomas Band, Webb Wilder, Yam, and many more

Saturday, September 19

Patty Loveless, The Dan Tyminski Band, Dr. Dog, Belleville Outfit, The Hackensaw Boys, Sierra Hull & Highway 11, Johnson Swingtet, Dehlia Low, Trampled By Turtles, The SteelDrivers, The Coal Men, And The Moneynotes, Baytop & Franklin, The John Cowan Band, James Hand, Corey Harris & The 5x5 Band, Holy Ghost Tent Revival, Hoots and Hellmouth, Junior League Band, Kindling Stone, Nathan Blake Lynn, Tim O'Brien, Paleface, Rum Drum Rumlbers, Sarah Siskind, Cadillac Sky, The Corduroy Road, Samantha Crain, Justin Townes Earle, The Floorbirds, The Fox Hunt Band, Janie Grey, Michelle Malone, Oneseide, Seythian, Packway Handle Band, Smokestack & The Foothill Fury, Darrell Scott,

Sunday, September 20

Dailey & Vincent, Gene Watson, Cadillac Sky, The Corduroy Road, Samantha Crain, Dr. Dog, Justin Townes Earle, The Floorbirds, The Fox Hunt Band, Janie Grey, Michelle Malone, Oneseide, Packway Handle Band, Seythian, Smokestack & The Foothill Fury, Whiskey Bent Valley Boys, Boulder Acoustic Society, Pete Kartsounes Band, The Ryan McGiver Trio, The New Familiars, Old Line Skiffle Combo, Ian Thomas Band, Yam, Darrell Scott, Larry Keel & Natural Bridge, Town Mountain, Wheeler, Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper, Linda Lay & Springfield Exit, and many more

Artists subject to change without notice.

Funded in part by a grant from the
Tennessee Arts Commission,
Virginia Commission for the Arts,
and National Endowment for the Arts.

www.bristolrhythm.com

A RESOURCE FOR THE COMMONWEALTH

VIRGINIA ECONOMIC BRIDGE, INC.

www.VirginiaEconomicBridge.org



CONNECTING THE COMMONWEALTH

Virginia Economic Bridge, Inc., (VEB), a 501 (c3) nonprofit organization, promotes the economic vitality and external competitiveness of the Commonwealth through business, industry and educational partnerships. Our strength is in our local, state, and national partnerships, alliances and contacts. Direct impact is made through the management of four signature programs: Virginia's Business Pipeline, Linked Workforce Initiative, Virginia Community Analysis, Research and Development (VaCARD) and Return to Roots. Let us become a resource for you. We can help you be transformational!



VaCARD

An Initiative of Virginia Economic Bridge, Inc.



Linked Workforce

An Initiative of Virginia Economic Bridge, Inc.



RETURN
to ROOTS



RETURN
to ROOTS



VIRGINIA'S BUSINESS PIPELINE

An Initiative of Virginia Economic Bridge, Inc.

www.VirginiaEconomicBridge.org

_____ Yes, I will attend the 2009 Return To Roots Celebration and have included my check for the following:

_____ Single - \$90

_____ Patron (4) - \$500

_____ Couple - \$175

_____ Sponsor (8) - \$1,000

Names of Attendees: _____

_____ Yes, I have reviewed the information on the back of this response card and would like to sponsor this event as well. Please contact me at _____.

_____ No, I cannot attend but have enclosed my charitable donation of \$ _____ to support efforts to recruit Southwest Virginia's native sons and daughters back to the region for career opportunities.

Important Notice

All attendees will receive a complimentary pass to Bristol Rhythm and Roots Reunion events held on Friday, September 18, 2009.

Please make all checks payable to "Virginia Economic Bridge, Inc. - RTR." Virginia Economic Bridge, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Some portion of your donation, including your ticket price, may receive charitable donation status. For more information or to reserve your tickets with a credit card, please contact the Virginia Economic Bridge, Inc. at (540) 731-6800.

Please RSVP by September 11, 2009

Join the Return to Roots Sponsorship Circle

The success of the **Return to Roots** program depends on the support of the region and other individuals. Sponsorship opportunities are available for the Celebration and program. **Return to Roots** hopes to partner with companies for this worthwhile project with the mission of locating Southwest Virginia native sons & daughters and returning them to their roots for career and business opportunities. To fulfill that mission, **Return to Roots** seeks funding assistance for the program's marketing and operations. Return to Roots asks that you consider sponsoring this worthy venture at one of the following levels:

50K Circle

25K Circle

10K Circle

5K Circle

2.5K Circle

To find out more about these sponsorship opportunities, please contact Return to Roots Program Manager Carl Mitchell at (540) 731-6800 or email cmitchell@vebinc.org.