**NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services**

*Resources for Entrepreneurs with Disabilities*

*Boone, NC*

January 30, 2020

Agenda

10:30 a.m. *Welcome*

**Ben Kittner**, Small Business Specialist

NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

10:40 a.m. *Boone-Area Economy: Overview and Opportunities*

**David Jackson**, President & CEO,

Boone-Area Chamber of Commerce

11:00 a.m. *Boone-Area Resources for Entrepreneurs with Disabilities*

 **Ben Willis**, Director, *Caldwell Community College Small Business Center*

 **Laura Brintle-Jarvis**, Director, *Wilkes Community College Small Business Center*

**Allen Cook**, Director, *Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)*

**Sharon Oxendine**, Executive Director, *Western NC Women’s Business Center*

**Bill Slagle,** State Director – Existing Industry Expansion Team,

*Economic Development Partnership of NC/ Business Link North Carolina*

**Charlie Bradley**,Exec.V.P. of Public Affairs,*Brian Hamilton Foundation*

**Jalisha Richmond**, Loan Officer, *Thread Capital*

**Erich Schlenker,** Managing Director, *ASU Center for Entrepreneurship*

**Chris Grasinger**, High Country Regional Manager, *Mountain BizWorks*

**Sharon Harvey**, Senior Area Manager, *US Small Business Administration*

Lunch  **Annie Baggett,** Agritourism Marketing Specialist, *NC Dept. of Agriculture*

1 p.m. *10-Minute* *Speed Networking Sessions*

 Resource Speakers*:* Please pair up at a table.

Counselors and Participants*:* Please divide into groups 4 or 5 per table.

*At the sound of the bell,* speakers*, please remind the table which organization you are with, followed by* questions from participants and discussion about Self-Employment cases and VR client needs*.* *When the bell rings, please rotate to next table.*

2 p.m. *Thank You and Adjourn… Please respond to email program evaluation!*