

Faculty Short Vita for Gerald A. Doeksen

Gerald Doeksen is Director of the National Center for Rural Health Works. He is also a Regents Professor and Extension Economist with Oklahoma State University. He has been a pioneer in developing tools to measure the economic impact of the health sector on a local community. His work with the National Center develops tools and conducts train-the-trainer workshops in states to train professionals on how to apply these tools at the local level. During the past three years, he has conducted workshops in over 45 states. The workshops teach the economic impact tool, the community engagement process (including community health assessment), and the health feasibility studies. He has made over 350 regional, national and international presentations. He has published extensively in Health Journals and other publications on this topic. He has also received many awards including the 2002 RUPRI Distinguished Serve Award and the 2003 Priester Award. In 2006 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southern Agricultural Economics Association and the Bonnie Teater Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southern Rural Development Center

In his current position, Dr. Doeksen is heavily involved in community health planning. Dr. Doeksen is on a multi-agency team which is facilitating health planning activities in many communities in Oklahoma (Rural Health Works). His special expertise is in measuring the economic benefits of the health sector and conducting feasibility studies. The health impact studies demonstrate to community leaders the importance of the health sector in creating jobs and income. As the income from health sector employees is spent locally, this creates secondary benefits. His model measures total employment, income, retail sales, and sales tax generated by the health sector. Dr. Doeksen also conducts many feasibility studies. These include studies which measure need, capital costs, operating costs, and revenue for various services. The feasibility study areas include emergency medical services (first responders, basic, and

paramedic), physician feasibility (family practice, pediatrics, internal medicine, and OB-GYN), adult day care centers and outpatient rehabilitation.

Dr. Doeksen believes strongly in collaboration and works extremely well with colleagues in community planning and community health needs assessment. The planning team consists of College of Public Health, State Department of Public Health, Primary Care, and Office of Rural Health professionals. He has worked with this team for ten years and with Oklahoma Rural Health Providers for over 30 years. He holds a Masters and Ph.D. Degree from the Department of Agricultural Economics, Oklahoma State University. His area of expertise is community economic development and community infrastructure planning with emphasis on health.

For further information or assistance:

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