



**Presenter Bio: Strengthening a Critical Rural Infrastructure – Rural Grocery Stores**

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**Dr. David Procter**

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Dr. David Procter holds a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska and is currently the Director of Kansas State University's Center for Engagement and Community Development (CECD). In 2007, Dr. Procter, a group of rural grocers, non-profits, and community leaders launched the Rural Grocery Initiative to identify challenges faced by rural grocery stores and sustainable models of rural grocery operation to address those challenges. Since that time, Procter and the Rural Grocery Initiative have created an informational website ([www.ruralgrocery.org](http://www.ruralgrocery.org)), developed an online blog for rural grocers (<https://blogs.k-state.edu/ruralgrocery/>), hosted two national rural grocer summits, developed a series of rural grocer best practices, and developed a series of case studies of sustainable models of rural grocery operation. Procter has presented this work at several national conferences and briefings before the U.S. House Hunger Caucus and the U.S. Senate Hunger Caucus. The Rural Grocery Initiative was awarded the National Outstanding Community Development Program Award by the International Community Development Society in 2010.