

Challenges Facing Rural Community Colleges

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The logo features a stylized blue circular arrow that loops around the text. The text is arranged in three lines: the first two lines are in a bold, black, sans-serif font, and the third line is in a white, sans-serif font on a black background.

**RURAL COMMUNITY
COLLEGE ALLIANCE**
creating opportunities in place



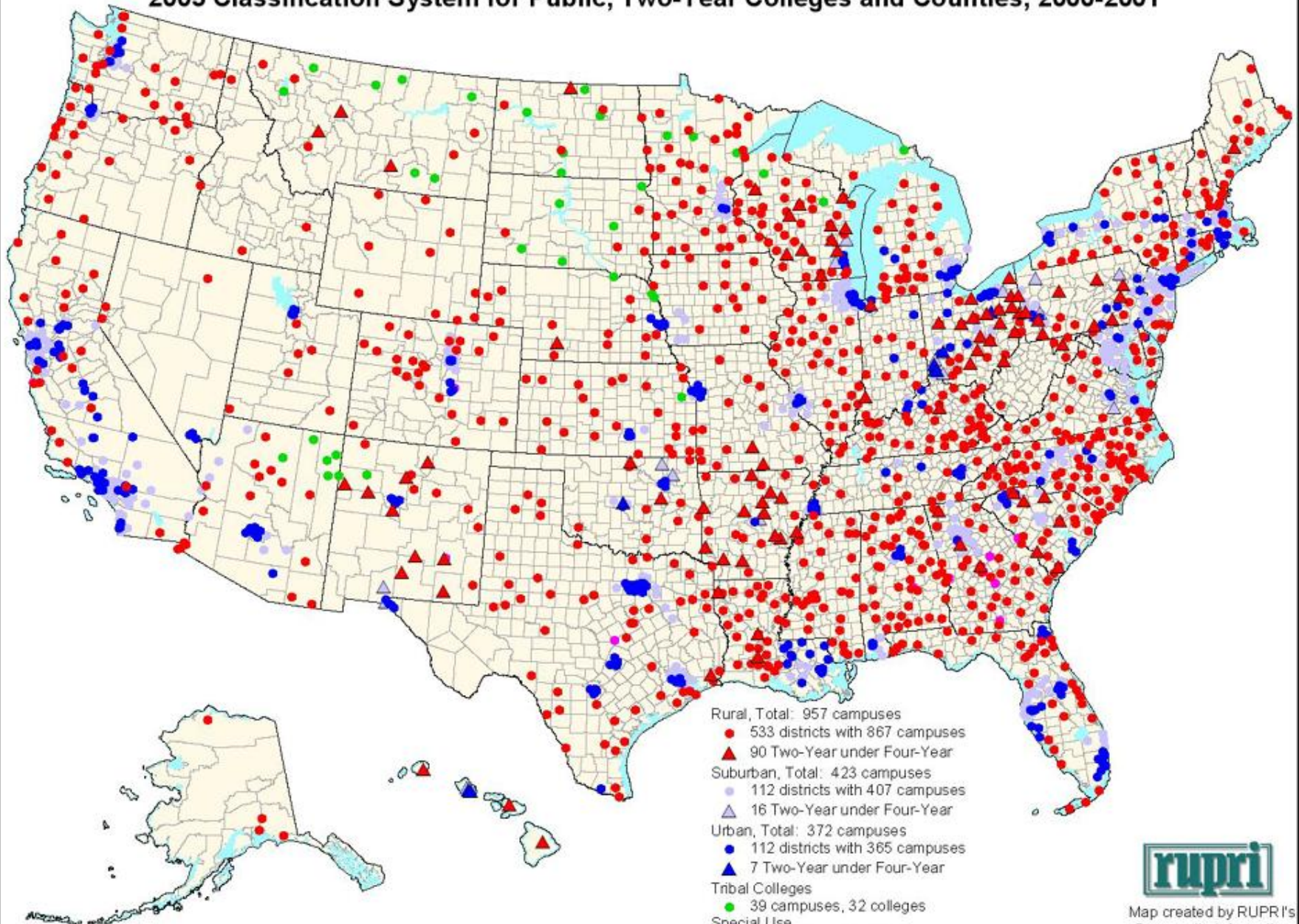
Demographics

www.wosc.edu

- Over 950 rural serving community colleges in the U.S.



**Publicly-Controlled Two-Year College Campuses in the United States by Katsinas, Lacey, & Hardy
2005 Classification System for Public, Two-Year Colleges and Counties, 2000-2001**



This map was prepared by the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) using ZIP codes supplied by institutions to the US Department of Education's IPEDS data base, 2001.

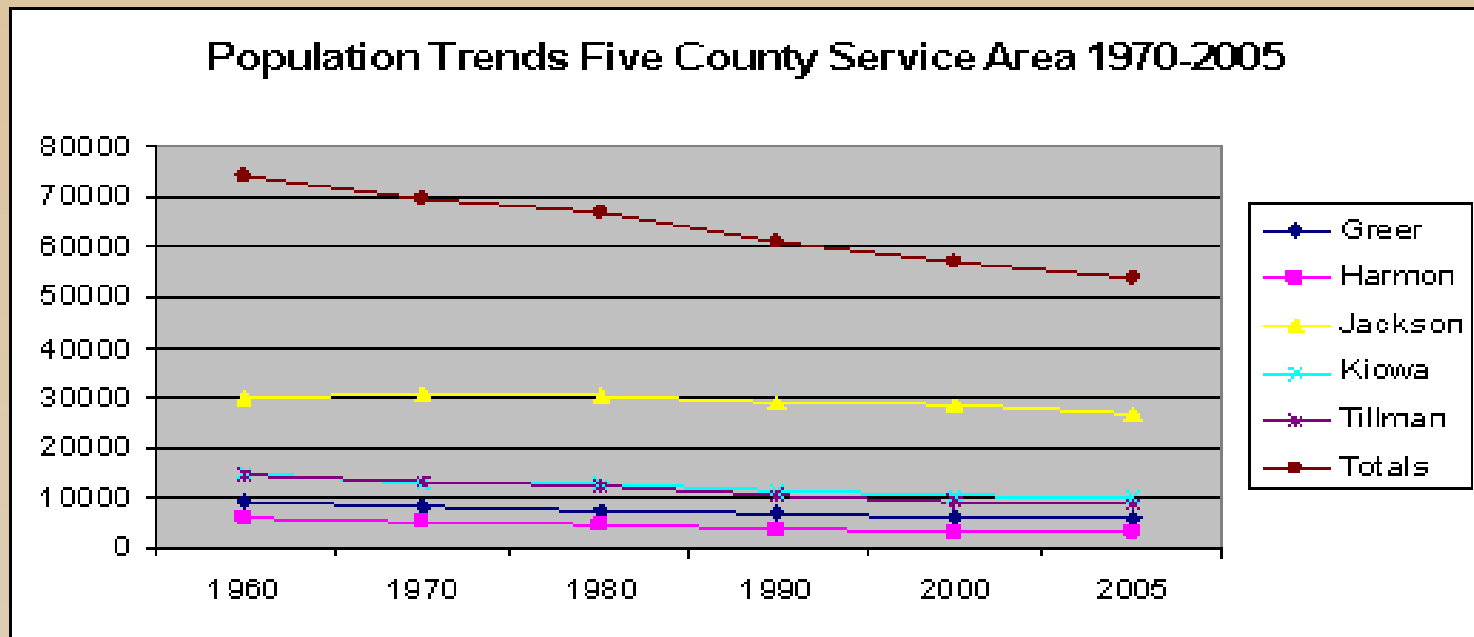


Map created by RUPRI's
Community Information
Resource Center
September 2005

Rural Demographics

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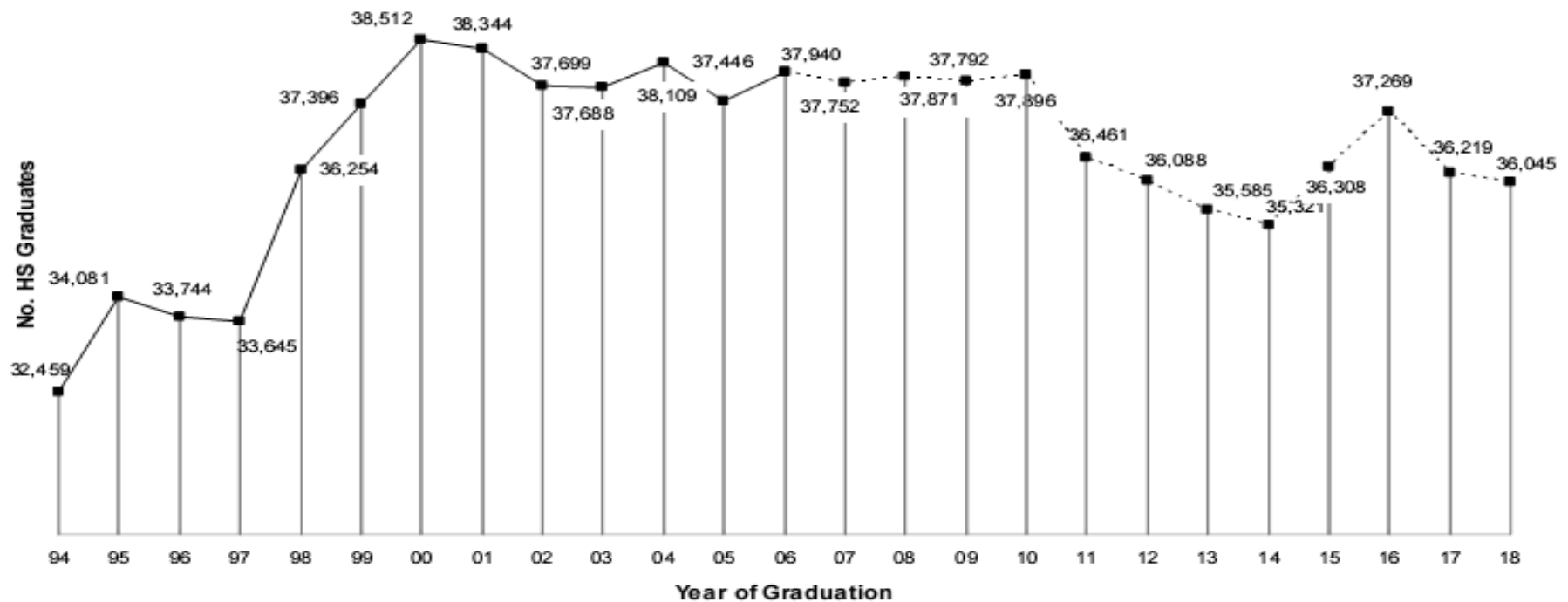
- Declining Rural Population



WOSC Service Area Population

Rural Demographics

OKLAHOMA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
ACTUALS: 1993-94 THROUGH 2005-06
PROJECTIONS: 2006-07 THROUGH 2017-18



SOURCE: Cohort Survival Projections



Rural Demographics

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- Increasing competition for a shrinking pool of students- often leading to enrollment declines
- Average age of a rural community college student is 29
- On average rural community college students drive 50 miles round trip

» R. Smith, 2005



Challenges

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- Service area population (may be declining)
- Declining number of high school graduates
- More working adults returning to college (often require more and different types of services, childcare, evening courses, non-traditional schedules etc.)



Challenges (cont.)

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- Increasing competition for a limited number of students (rural colleges do not have the resources that urban and suburban colleges do)
- **ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT #1** challenge
- Shift in funding from state to local areas (smaller tax base)



Challenges (cont.)

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- Faculty and administrative retirements will have a MAJOR impact on rural community colleges in the next two to five years
- Difficult recruiting credentialed and experienced administrators and faculty to rural areas
- 80% of all community college administrators plan to retire by 2012
 - » Romero (2004)



Advantages of Rural CC

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- Low cost of attendance
- Open admissions
- Focus on instruction and the student
- Ability to change and adapt quickly to stakeholder and community needs
- Services offered to business and industry
- Engine for economic development in rural areas



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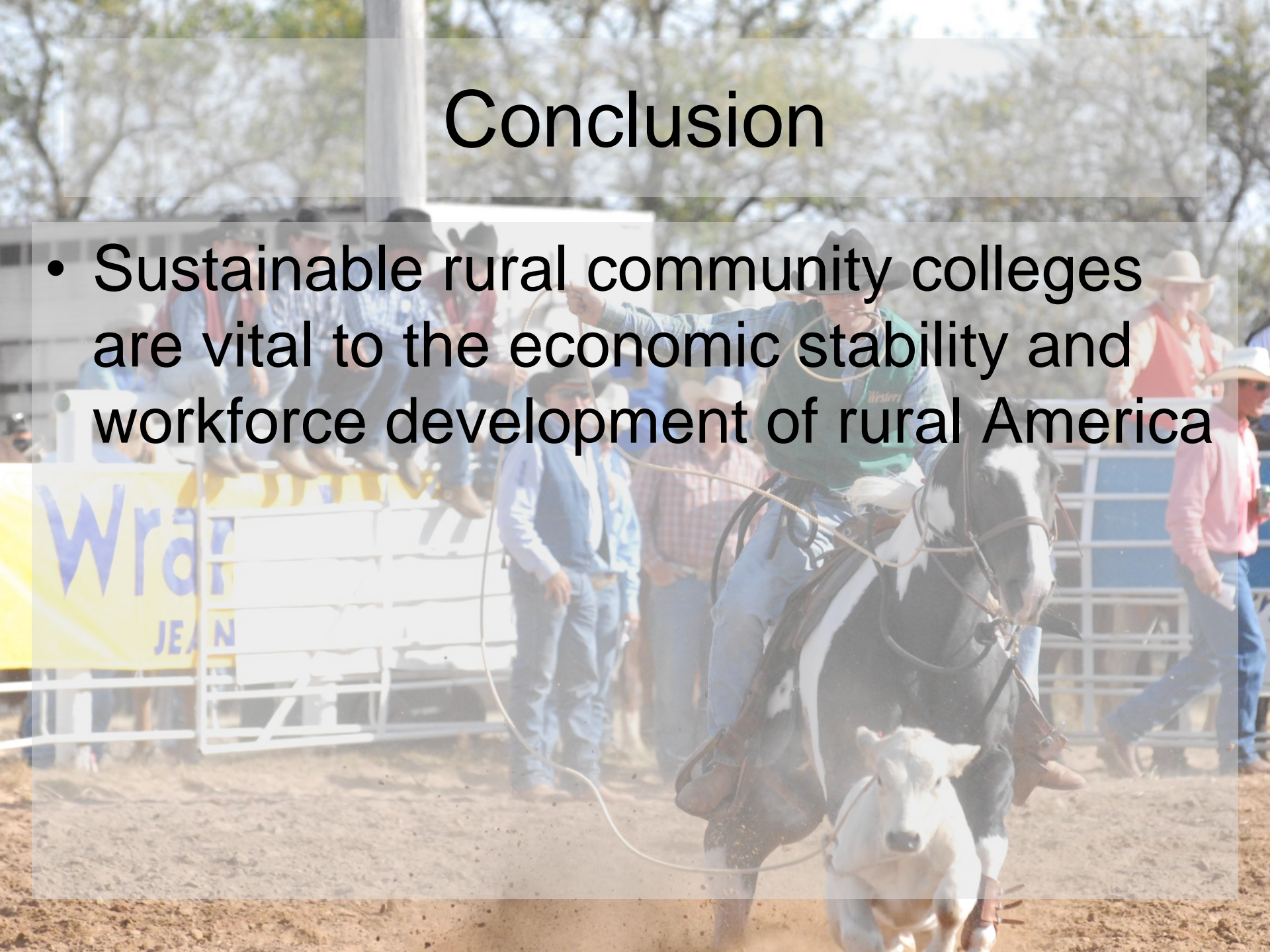
Advantages of Rural CC

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- Community colleges train Rural America's workforce: nurses, police officers, dental assistants, paramedics, radiology techs, fire fighters, production agriculture specialists, computer technicians, early childhood teachers, mechanics, farm and ranch managers, and many more professions

Conclusion

- Sustainable rural community colleges are vital to the economic stability and workforce development of rural America



Thank You!

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