

RACHEL B. TOMPKINS

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EMPLOYMENT

Tompkins is President of the Rural School and Community Trust (Rural Trust), the premier national nonprofit organization addressing the crucial relationship between good schools and thriving rural communities. Working in some of the poorest, most challenging rural places, the Rural Trust involves young people in learning linked to their communities, improves the quality of teaching and school leadership, advocates for appropriate state educational policies, and addresses the critical issue of funding for rural schools.

Previously, Tompkins served as Extension Professor for Community, Economic, and Workforce Development in the WVU Extension Service in Morgantown, WV. She assisted in the creation of West Virginia Community Collaborative, Inc., a unique non-profit, public-private partnership of organizations that leads efforts to build community capacity and promote sustainable development. She served as Adviser to West Virginia Governor Gaston Caperton (1994-96), Associate Provost for Extension and Economic Development and Director of the Cooperative Extension Service at WVU (1984-94), Executive Director of the Children's Defense Fund (1982-84), the premier national advocacy organization for children, and Executive Director of the Citizen's Council for Ohio Schools (1976-82).

EDUCATION

Tompkins holds degrees from West Virginia University in Biology, the Maxwell School of Syracuse University in Public Administration, and the Harvard Graduate School of Education in Administration, Planning, and Social Policy. She was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Tompkins currently serves on the Boards of the Edward W. Hazen Foundation, What Kids Can Do and Regional Technology Strategies, Inc. She is a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Research in Rural Education. She served on the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation Board of Trustees in Little Rock, Arkansas from 1994 – 2000 and was chair of the Board in 1999.