

**Alan Barefield**

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Alan Barefield is an Extension Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Economics (formerly with the Mississippi State University Extension Service) and the current owner of Barefield and Associates consulting service. His educational programming efforts focused on facilitating economic and community development efforts in the state of Mississippi. Specific areas addressed include business and entrepreneurship development, community economic and social analysis, business retention and expansion, and community infrastructure development and analysis. Barefield has received the BREI Distinguished Service Award in 2010 and the Master Business and Retention Professional designation in 2011. Barefield has had several service roles with Business Retention and Expansion International including serving as a member of and chair of the BREI Education Committee, rewriting the curricula for the BREI Fundamentals Course with Kathy Tweeten and developing curricula for several BREI Continuing Education courses.

**Hetti Huls**

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Hetti Huls is an Economic Development Officer for the County of Grand Prairie in Alberta, Canada. She has a passion for quality of life for the county's residents and that the bare minimum should be accessible for everyone regardless of social, economic, or physical limitations or constraints.

She is a lifelong resident of the Peace Region with a deep understanding of how her region has grown. She feels that she is lucky to be in a region with multiple economic drivers to prevent major upsets when the economy changes and where the opportunities for education, innovation, and career growth is ample.