

 **THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION**

NEWS RELEASE

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**FOUNDATION VICE PRESIDENT SPEAKS AT
TWO NATIONAL CONFERENCES**

Alexandria, LA – Allen J. Smart, MPH, CHE, CHES, Vice President of Programs for The Rapides Foundation, was recently a featured speaker at two national conferences.

Mr. Smart spoke on rural leadership issues at the annual meeting of the Southern Growth Policies Board, which was held June 1-3 in Biloxi. Currently governors from 13 southern states are active in the organization, a unique public-private partnership that is devoted to strengthening the South's economy and creating the highest possible quality of life. Jim Clinton, Executive Director of Southern Growth is currently working with The Rapides Foundation in its intensive economic development consensus building process this summer.

“Critical Success Factors in Funding Partnerships” was the topic of Mr. Smart's presentation during The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's (RWJ) annual meeting of grantmakers affiliated with its Local Initiative Funding Partners national program. The conference was held June 12-13 at the Foundation's headquarters in Princeton, New Jersey. Local Initiative Funding Partners is a partnership between RWJ Foundation and local grantmakers, such as The Rapides Foundation, that supports innovative, community-based projects to improved health and healthcare for underserved and at-risk populations. The Rapides Foundation is actively cultivating funding partnerships with national foundations as a way to introduce both financial resources and technical expertise on health and well-being issues into the community.

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