



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 12, 2006

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY and** **EVENT CREDENTIALING INFO**

### **Diverse Stakeholders from Southern Maryland to Convene, Develop Consensus on Growth Pressures, Affordable Housing, Environment**

***Participants from Calvert, St. Mary's and Charles Counties to Attend Southern  
Maryland Regional Event Slated for Thursday, June 15 in St. Mary's City***

**WHAT:** Southern Maryland Regional **Reality Check Plus** Event  
▪ Calvert, St. Mary's and Charles Counties are Focus of June 15 exercise

**WHEN:** **Thursday, June 15 at 8:00 AM**  
Registration and breakfast will begin at 8:00 AM. The morning exercise and afternoon session will take place in the Athletic Arena in Somerset Gymnasium (building #7 on the [campus map](#)). Lunch will be held in the Great Room in the Campus Center (building #19). The afternoon session, which is open to anyone interested in participating, will begin with a keynote presentation at 1:30 PM and take place in the arena.  
**Media are welcome to attend the event all day or any part of the day.**

See [http://www.realitycheckmaryland.org/southern\\_region\\_directions.php](http://www.realitycheckmaryland.org/southern_region_directions.php) for event details.

**WHERE:** **St. Mary's College of Maryland**  
18952 E. Fisher Road in St. Mary's City

To apply for media credentials, visit [http://www.realitycheckmaryland.org/media\\_center.php](http://www.realitycheckmaryland.org/media_center.php).

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Through discourse and negotiation, **Reality Check Plus** participants will propose alternative growth scenarios within their region. Participants will use blocks to help guide their discussions by placing the blocks, which will represent a certain number of new jobs and new residents, on their regional map. Each table of up to 10 participants will be led through a discussion about planning for future growth by a trained facilitator. The exercise is intended to provoke discussion not only about where we grow, but also about how we grow as a region.

The results of this work will serve as the foundation for needed regional and statewide dialogue and future action to accommodate growth in a way that leverages resources, adds value to our communities, and protects and enhances our quality of life. Shortly after the conclusion of the four regional events, **Reality Check Plus** organizers will aggregate and analyze the outcomes of the four exercises in a wrap-up report, which will also include tools, indicators and recommendations for value-added planning on the local and regional levels.

A broad-based coalition of nearly 150 sponsors and supporting organizations is guiding this effort, including the Home Builders Association of Maryland, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment, the Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, The American Institute of Architects - Baltimore, the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, the Greater Baltimore Committee, the Maryland and National Capital Area Chapters of the American Planning Association and the Mid-Shore Community Foundation, among many others.

A number of other jurisdictions around the country have already launched local or regional visioning exercises – Envision Utah in the Salt Lake City region; Blueprint in Sacramento, California; and Reality Check in Los Angeles, Dallas Ft. Worth and Washington, D.C. What distinguishes **Reality Check Plus** from previous visioning exercises in Maryland is that it is privately led, statewide and action-oriented.

[www.realitycheckmaryland.org](http://www.realitycheckmaryland.org)

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