

Introduction

Keeping Promises

The Western Reserve Studies Symposium began in 1985 to provide a forum for students and scholars of northeastern Ohio's history and culture. The objective of the symposia is to advance the exploration of the distinctive aspects of Ohio's Western Reserve over two centuries.

Two years ago at the 17th annual Western Reserve Studies Symposium "Regional Foods and Markets: Reconnecting Farmers and Consumers in the Western Reserve" several critical questions were raised. At its conclusion, one attendee directed the question to me which was "What are you going to do about it?"

This was the inspiration for last year's 18th Symposium "Land Use and Prosperity in the Western Reserve: A Call to Action." We invited those who were interested in and actively seeking to address the issues around land use to join in determining "what we were going to do about it."

This year the 19th Western Reserve Studies Symposium "**A Quiet Revolution: Land Use Initiatives in the Western Reserve.**" is a response to the "Call for Action" issued last year.

- It is designed to inform and motivate all who care deeply about our region, who accept its challenges, who believe in its promise.
- It features those who are addressing Land Use issues creatively, imaginatively and successfully.
- It provides the opportunity for interaction among presenters and participants as we consider these significant issues of our time and place.

"I have promises to keep," wrote poet Robert Frost and so do we all here today in our commitment to and regard for our region, its lands, its people and . . . the possibilities!

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A complete list of Western Reserve Studies Symposia publications appears at the end of this book. All are available on our WEB site at www.case.edu/artsci/wrssl.

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