As noted in the recent national release of the *County Health Rankings*, the rural counties of Appalachia in Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee are among the least healthy in the nation. Areas of particular concern include obesity, diabetes, tobacco and prescription drug abuse and high mortality rates from cancer, and cardiovascular disease. The **State Street Project: Health Across Borders** was developed to further understand the need for action and to identify how we can work together across state borders to improve these health factors and outcomes in our region.

The **State Street Project: Health Across Borders** took place on June 12, 2014 at the Foundation Event Center in Bristol, TN/VA. The event brought together over 150 multi-sector community leaders from Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia with an aim to understand, analyze and use the *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps* to increase public awareness, drive health policy and coordinate community and individual action.

Featured speakers included:
- Randy Wykoff, MD, MPH&TM, Executive Director, Tennessee Institute of Public Health and Dean, ETSU College of Public Health;
- John Dreyzehner, MD, MPH, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Health;
- Marissa Levine, MD, MPH, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health; and
- Kate Konkle, MPH, Engagement Specialist, County Health Rankings & Roadmaps.

The **State Street Project: Health Across Borders** was a collaborative effort between The Tennessee Institute of Public Health and the Healthy Appalachia Institute, with their respective institutions, East Tennessee State University and The University of Virginia’s College at Wise. The event was made possible through the generous support of the *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps* program with funding from The University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, in collaboration with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

To learn more about **The State Street Project: Health Across Borders** please contact Ginny Kidwell, kidwell@etsu.edu, or Margie Tomann, mtomann@uvawise.edu.