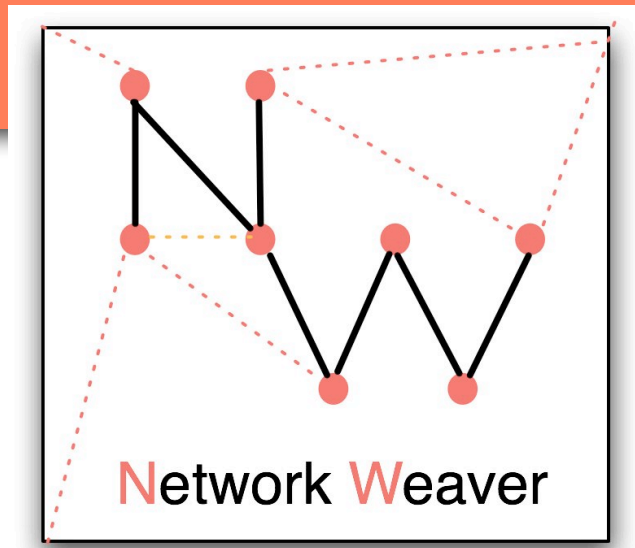


# Network Weaving for Regional Innovation



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# Who Am I?

- Since 1981, been researching networks and complex adaptive systems to understand how we can help change take place in our communities that makes a difference, especially for marginal people
- Started ACEnet, a regional entrepreneurship organization in Appalachian Ohio in 1985
- Have worked on many projects around the country that involved networks, innovation, learning, and collaboration
- With Valdis Krebs, developed software to map and measure the health of networks and a training program for Network Weavers

# Workshop Outcomes

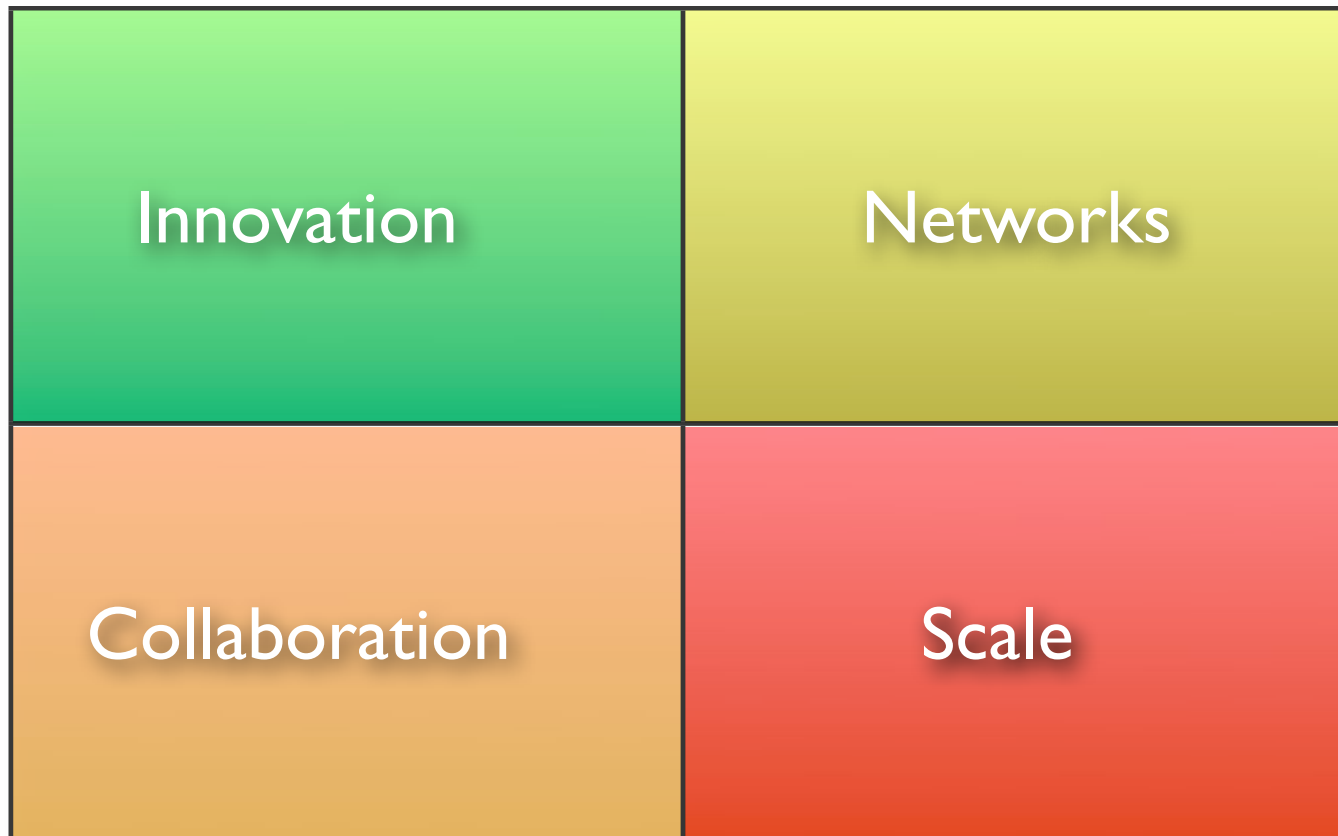
- Be able to explain basic network terms and the importance of networks to others in your community
- Have a strategy for enhancing networks in your community

# Networking Activity

## Your Vision for Your Community

- What is your vision for your community? What would you like your community to be like in ten years?
- What gifts or strengths do you have that can help your community move towards that vision?
- What do you need?

# 4 Keys to Prosperous Regions



# Innovative Businesses Create More Wealth and Jobs



# Collaboration Creates New Support



# Innovation Funds Enables Successes to Move to Scale

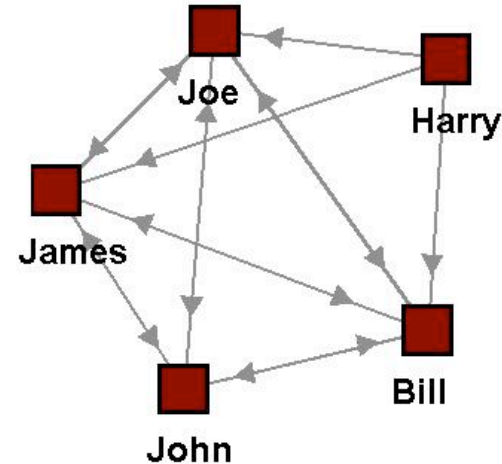


# But....Networks Tie Them All Together

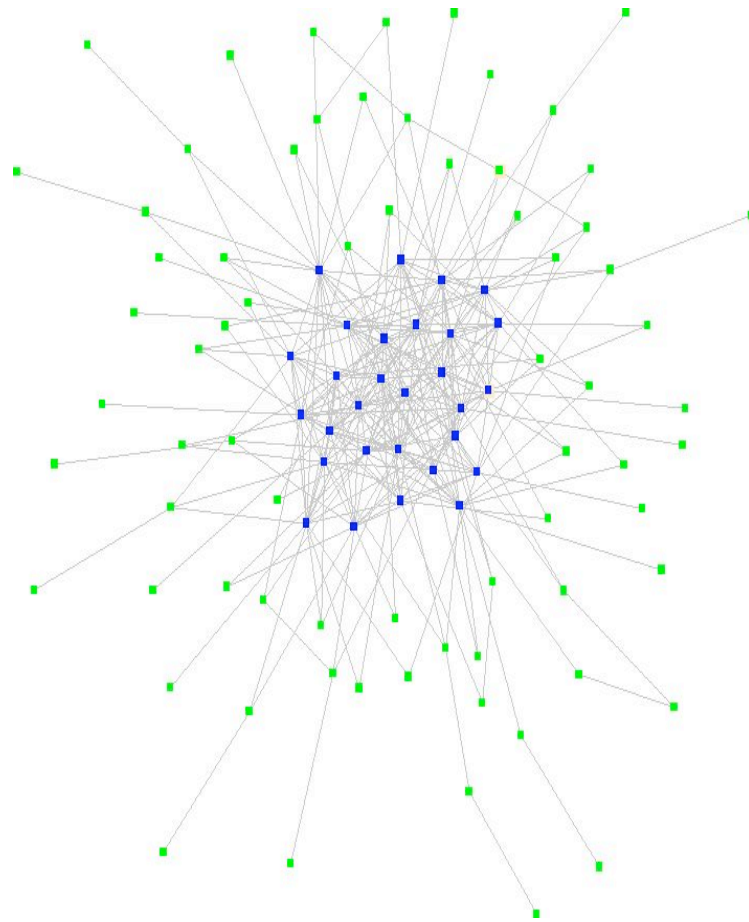
- Networks are all the relationships that enable us to find new ideas for our region
- Networks help us identify the people we can collaborate with to create a prosperous region
- Networks help us get the resources and policy so our efforts have scale and impact

# All Networks Are Not the Same

Some networks are closed (old boys networks) -- they may be effective but often not innovative



# All networks are not the same!



Core – periphery

Some  
networks  
are  
structured  
for  
innovation:  
Smart  
Networks

# Draw the networks in your region

What are some of the organizations and businesses?

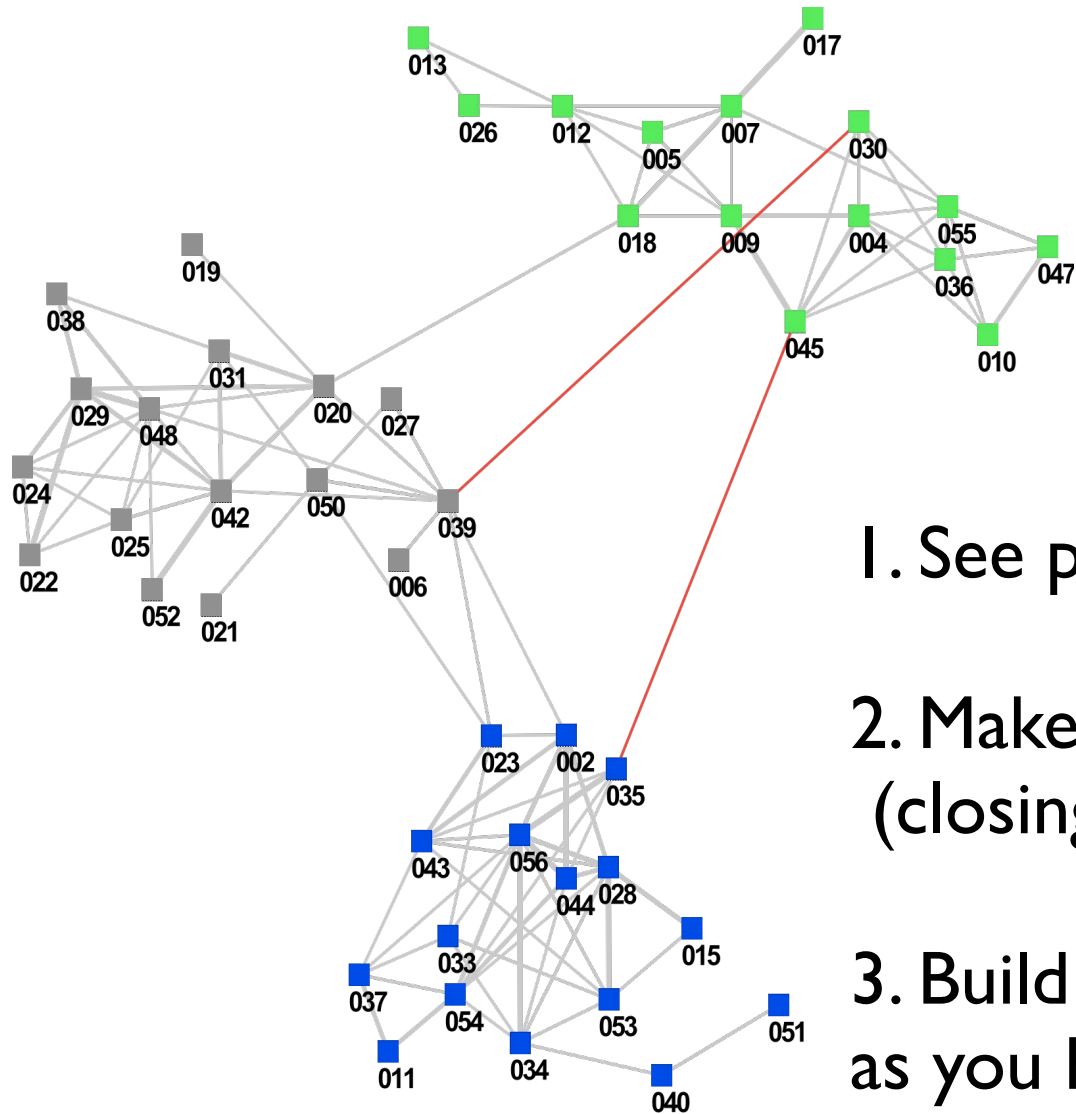
Who works with whom?

Who do you work with?

Who is isolated?

# New Role: Network Weaver

- Willing to take responsibility for making the network more effective by increasing the quantity and quality of connections
- Weave as part of their job



1. See patterns

2. Make connections  
(closing triangles)

3. Build trust & skills  
as you help organize  
collaborative  
projects

# Activity: Network Weaver

- What are your strengths as a Network Weaver?
- What do you need to enhance these strengths and add more Network Weaver skill?

# Steps You Can Take to Enhance Networks

Map the existing network

- Who do you work with?
- Who do you get new ideas from?
- Who do you go to for expertise or advice?

Who are the hubs? Who is isolated?