

# The Center for Rural Development

## - *Impact Report* -

### Second Quarter 2010

The Center for Rural Development has four “Focus Areas”:

**LEADERSHIP – TECHNOLOGY – PUBLIC SAFETY – ARTS & CULTURE**

## **LEADERSHIP**

### **Youth Leadership Programs (3):**

#### **Rogers Scholars**

\_\_ Rogers Scholars is an intensive one-week summer youth leadership program that provides leadership and scholarship opportunities for our region’s youth and future leaders. It is designed for rising high school juniors from our 42-county region of Southern and Eastern Ky. It emphasizes technological skills development and fosters an entrepreneurial spirit, leadership and a commitment to rural Kentucky. Scholars have the opportunity to interact with state and national leaders and work with high-quality instructors.

\_\_ In 2009, Rogers Scholars was held in two sessions: June 28-July 3, and July 12-17. The 2010 Rogers Scholars will be held June 27-July 2 and July 11-July 16. This year, 73 students have been selected to participate in the program.

\_\_ Developed in 1998 as an action step toward Congressman Hal Rogers’ goal “...that no young person will need to leave home to find his or her future.”

\_\_ The Center shares the Congressman’s belief that if we could keep one generation of our best and brightest youth at home, here in Southern and Eastern Ky., we could transform the region.

- 659 Rogers Scholars (RS) graduates
- 15 colleges and universities offer scholarships to RS graduates:
  - Big Sandy Community and Technical College
  - Campbellsville University
  - Eastern Kentucky University
  - Hazard Community College
  - Lincoln Memorial University
  - Lindsey Wilson College
  - Midway College
  - Morehead State University
  - Pikeville College
  - Somerset Community College
  - Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College
  - Union College
  - University of Kentucky
  - University of the Cumberlands
  - Western Kentucky University
- \$7,200,000 value of potential scholarships available to RS graduates

#### **Rogers Explorers**

\_\_\_ A summer camp that focuses on defining skills in mathematics and science for rising ninth graders. Explorers participate in the program fields of mathematics, science, and engineering and are educated on the importance of community service and encouraged to develop a long-term commitment to the region.

\_ The 2010 Rogers Explorers have been identified, with 90 students participating in three different sessions. Rogers Explorers at Lindsey Wilson College will be June 6-8. Rogers Explorers at University of the Cumberlands will be June 9-11. Rogers Explorers at Eastern Kentucky University will be July 21-23.

- The program was initiated in 2006
- 152 Rogers Explorers graduates in all
- Since 2006, the program has been held on the campus of the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, Ky.
- In 2009, the program was expanded to include a second campus at Lindsey Wilson College, allowing students from an additional 32 counties in The Center's primary 42-county service area to participate in the program for the first time ever.
- In 2009, Rogers Explorers was held in two sessions: June 7-9 at the University of the Cumberlands, and June 10-12 at Lindsey Wilson College. A third session at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond is planned for 2010.

### **Entrepreneurial Leadership Institute (ELI)**

\_\_\_ A summer program that focuses on the development of the creative, team building and business skills needed by the budding entrepreneur to start their own business.

\_\_\_ It is our belief that the advancement of "home grown" business and jobs is critical to the future economic success of Southern and Eastern Ky. ELI helps to identify, educate and encourage our region's next generation of entrepreneur success stories.

- The program was initiated in 2006
- 97 Entrepreneurial Leadership Institute (ELI) graduates total
- 17 ECU Presidential Scholarships were provided to ELI students
- In 2009, ELI was held June 14-19. The 2010 application ELI program will be held the week of June 13-18. 39 students were selected to participate in the 2010 program.

### **Community Leadership:**

\_\_\_ The Center is taking a lead role in community leadership training through educational efforts that focus on the importance of long range planning, innovative problem solving and the on-going encouragement of forward-thinking community leaders.

- The Center for Rural Development, a health advocacy grantee of the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, is targeting three Lake Cumberland area counties (Pulaski, Russell, Wayne) to improve health practice and policy among school-aged youth. Upon hosting forums in each county and listening to current activity and challenges, participants in each community independently selected physical inactivity as its pressing issue in which to target improvements. County specific action plans are being developed to address related interests. The core planning team of this initiative, known as WOW (Working on Wellness), has drafted a resolution to improve physical activity and physical education. More than 20 organizations, agencies, and civic entities have enlisted their support of this document presently with additional groups expected. This information will be shared with key leaders and policy makers in the near future. Additionally, a video project is

being planned to highlight current physical activity and promising practices in each county.

A separate forum addressing the unmet dental health needs of residents in our service area was hosted by The Center. Twenty-five professionals and community members shared current practice as well as future partnerships to provide education and services for the region. The Center will continue to partner with those in attendance to further advance dental health issues.

- The Center for Rural Development has recently unveiled its new training program entitled Your Center of Learning ([www.yourcenteroflearning.com](http://www.yourcenteroflearning.com)). The program provides training sessions for both employers and job-seekers, who are unemployed, underemployed, or desire to develop or hone necessary workforce skills. Courses range from one-day workshops; six to ten-week classes; and six- month specialty training. Approximately 160 individuals have completed and graduated from the following classes thus far:

- Entry Level Management
- Technical Skills
- Executive Leadership
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Entrepreneurship (Business Your Way)
- Grant Writing (Basic and Intermediate) Center staff continues to recruit throughout the region via media outlets and hosting orientation sessions. Additional information about the training programs and offerings can be found on The Centers' website ([www.centertech.com](http://www.centertech.com)).
- Microsoft Excel I
- Microsoft Excel II

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- Through the ARC (Appalachian Regional Commission) funding of the *Developing and Implementing Community Strategies Program*, The Center has awarded 17 communities a total of over \$210,000 in grants to assist in developing or implementing community strategic plans. In 2006, the counties of Leslie and Owsley and the cities of Benham (Harlan Co.) and Jenkins (Letcher Co.) each received grants to help fund specific projects included in their strategic plans. During the 2008-09 grant awards, a total of \$170,000 was granted to 13 communities to further develop planning and implementation of community projects. Community development and strategic planning seminars have also been hosted by The Center to assist in this planning process. A total of six seminars have been held throughout the ARC project history covering topics that include community strategic planning, resource identification and grant writing and funding source identification. Being awarded a third round of funding by ARC, six new communities were recently selected through an application-based process to receive \$ 54,000 for strategic planning development and implementation. Awardees announced in February included Tri-Cities Heritage Development (Harlan County), Letcher County Convention and Tourism Commission, the City of Prestonsburg (Floyd County), Wayne County Fiscal Court, the City of Stanford (Lincoln County), and Harlan County Fiscal Court. Plans are currently underway to conduct a second workshop engaging the region's higher education audience during the fall. This will be an extension of the inaugural ARC Collegiate Leadership Summit which was hosted in September 2009. Applications are currently being accepted for the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of Phase III of the *Developing and Implementing Community Strategies Program*.

The deadline for eligible counties to submit applications is July 30, 2010. Amy Stroud and Patti Simpson conducted three information sessions on the current phase of funding. The sessions took place at The Center in Somerset, Kentucky River Area Development District in Hazard, and Gateway Area Development District in Morehead.

- Civic literacy initiatives are currently being implemented across the region with the assistance of Forward in the Fifth. Due to inclement weather in the first quarter of 2010, many activities were postponed and are being rescheduled for fall 2010. Included in these activities funded by a U.S. Department of Education are Student Leadership Conferences to be held at Campbellsville and Morehead State Universities, school administrator professional development, a youth leadership program targeting Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM), and a multi-media resource targeting student dropout dilemma. A college/K-12 partnership between Union and Barbourville Independent will include the implementation of a student mentoring program as well.
- A grant application has been submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utility Service for distance learning. The proposal would enable The Center to upgrade its technology infrastructure and ability to provide quality professional development and live arts and culture events/performances via our existing CenterNET2 network. Key audiences would include educators, students and community stakeholders that currently are limited in their ability to attend in-person events.

\_\_\_ *Forward in the Fifth*, an educational, non-profit organization located at The Center, focuses on strengthening connections between businesses, educators, parents and students to assist schools in meeting standards set by state and national reforms, leveraging resources needed by educational institutions and partners and enhancing the value of increased educational attainment. Current efforts include:

- A strategic planning session held in January 2010 with the FIF Board refining the organization's vision and mission statements in addition to goals around which to center its attention. A three-year action plan has been drafted and will be presented to the board for final approval in August.
- The Civic Literacy Grant awarded to FIF in 2008 was completed in March 2010. Grant activities included the hosting of educational summits discussing pressing topics in the education area, a mentoring program for middle school students in Adair, Metcalfe and Russell Counties, and middle school teacher professional development addressing curriculum standards and assessment of government and civic content. A final Teacher Academy was conducted in February to complete the project. Thirty-one counties of the service area participated in at least one initiative of this grant. A final report, including the project evaluation, has been completed.
- In partnership with Forward in the Fifth, The Center, has submitted an additional funding application to the U.S. Department of Education to further develop educational attainment and literacy within the service area. Information gleaned from FIF's strategic planning session was used to craft the proposal. A key component integrated within the grant application will be to increase the value placed on education and desire to complete high school and pursue postsecondary opportunities.
- During the past several months The Center and Forward in the Fifth have collaborated with local and state GEAR-UP programs to provide several learning experiences. The events included a Count Down to College Day in which more that

350 students and parents attended to learn how to adequately prepare and be ready to excel after high school. Collaboration for this session was with the South Central Kentucky GEAR-UP. In addition, the state GEAR-UP Office conducted a three-week summer camp at Eastern Kentucky University in June. Staff led an interactive session with 72 students devoted to civic engagement, including community service opportunities.

## TECHNOLOGY

### CenterNET2

\_\_ CenterNET2 has become a national leader in videoconferencing technology by harnessing the most modern technologies and delivery innovations and by adding partnerships with other leaders in the field. CenterNET2 has taken on the important role as the preeminent provider of data, voice and video service in our region and the largest provider of videoconferencing service in KY

\_\_ CenterNET2 received a *2006 Innovation and Technology Award* from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for excellence in “Technology in Education.” The Center’s CenterNET2 program is a national leader in the development, facilitation, and implementation of videoconferencing in the classroom environment.

\_\_ CenterNET2 was awarded a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development grant for \$445,000 to connect more rural sites to the Southern and Eastern Kentucky videoconferencing network. Through this funding, an estimated 89,000 residents will be connected to distance learning education opportunities.

\_\_ CenterNET2 was awarded a second U.S Department of Agriculture Rural Development grant for \$170,698 to connect more rural sites to the Southern and Eastern Kentucky videoconferencing network.

\_\_ CenterNET2 received a 2009 national “Best Practices” Award for Distance Learning Programming from the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) for groundbreaking videoconferencing programs delivered to secondary and post-secondary students and other network users.

- Co-author of Videoconferencing in the Classroom, Jan Zanetis presented via video for Gear Up participants. Jan and her sons discussed different technologies they can utilize to stay in touch while away at college. The title of the session was “From Low Tech to High Tech: Ways to Stay in Touch.”
- CenterNET2 Coordinator has been asked to serve another year on Somerset Community College’s Business and IT Advisory Committee.
- CenterNET2 Coordinator has been asked to serve an additional two year term on the Advisory Committee for The Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration (CILC) in Indianapolis. All meetings and responsibilities are executed via video and email.
- Del Valle High School in Texas provided collaborative connection opportunities in the following areas: Business, Career Educations, Computer Science, Fine Arts, Performing Arts, Language Arts/English, Family & Consumer Science, Social Studies/History and World Language. These free opportunities were

distributed to CenterNET2 members as well as other k-12 schools throughout the state.

- The Kentucky Historical Society is now a content provider for virtual field trip opportunities via video. The KHS made their first round of content available to CenterNET2 members.
- The Roy F. Collier Center in Martin County has joined the CenterNET2 Network. Union College has also added a distance learning location in London, KY. Lindsey Wilson College's remote distance learning campus has recently joined CenterNET2. The installs are made possible through the RUS grant award. The RUS installations for Adair (RUS II), Pikeville (RUS II), Knox (RUS II), Laurel (RUS II) and Scottsville (RUS I) are complete.
- We are currently waiting RUS grant approval for Williamsburg Independent and Wayne County Middle School.
- Somerset students were able to participate in the Megaconference Jr. 2009 event, an educational "virtual gathering" on Feb. 19 that brought students at 156 national and international sites together using advanced multi-point videoconferencing technology. In The Center's distance-learning classroom, the Somerset students competed in a rousing game of "Jeopardy!" against students in Ohio and Pennsylvania.
- Somerset Gifted and Talented students were connected to the Brownsburg Challenger Learning Center for a virtual field trip titled "Destination Mars." The connection was part of the Gifted and Talented Discovery Week program.
- The state-wide Commonwealth Video Conferencing Network (CVCN) has set a goal to improve the CVCN website requesting every network to compile a list of the sites that could be put into a database/spreadsheet.
- The Russell Center, McCreary Center Rm. 152, Prestonsburg rooms PB1 and PB2 have all received audio science microphones in lieu of the RUS grant award.
- There are currently 2,673 programs posted to the program calendars linked to the CenterNET2 website. There are now seven calendars available. A new calendar titled "Professional Development" has been added.
- The University of Kentucky Physical Therapy hosted a health conference at The Center. During the conference, a connection was made to Dr. Krause at the Medical University of South Carolina.
- CenterNET2 Project Manager gave a presentation to Wayne County Middle School (WCMS) teachers. WCMS now has an interest to become a CenterNET2 member through the RUS grant. Virtual field trips are being scheduled as demos so teachers can see first-hand how videoconferencing spices up sub-matter in the classroom.
- On September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009, soldiers were connected via a two-way videoconference to The Tams concert hosted by The Center via CenterNET2.
- The 2010 World Equestrian Games Committee to distribute content via video met recently. Content creation is underway and the calendar for distribution is being confirmed with presenters. There will be three types of connections for each program. Each event will be connected in a series. The first connection will

be made to Kentucky students as a trial run, a connection will be made to one location internationally with the final connection made to multiple international sites. Thus far, the international sites include, but are not limited to, France, Ireland and England. Hong Kong and Japan are being discussed but time zones are a factor.

- The Center in partnership with Tandberg Grant Services hosted a Workforce training Distance Learning Grant Workshop to be transmitted via videoconferencing with four remote locations participating.
- Pineville Independent is confirmed for the following *Free I2* virtual field trip programs titled: Opera Soup—Kentucky Opera, Southern Skies—University of Louisville, Ribbons Across the Land—Kentucky Transportation Department, Engineering Careers—Kentucky Transportation Department, Vanishing Bluegrass—Kentucky Derby Museum and Where in Kentucky—Kentucky State-wide School Collaboration.
- CenterNET2 Project Manager collaborated with State Internet2 (I2) Coordinator, Susan Lancaster to coordinate another great I2 connection for Convergence Conference participants. Connections were made with the Library of Congress. The subject matter for the connection will be Folk Music. We are looking for a group in Kentucky that could perform in the theater while connected to the Library of Congress sort of a collaboration type connection.
- A connection was made with The Library of Congress, the Northern Kentucky Brotherhood and Kentucky Historical Society during the 2009 Convergence Conference. Good compliments were submitted after the event.
- NASA connections for Rogers Explorers were made at the University of the Cumberlands and Lindsey Wilson groups. Explorers participating in this DLN event discovered just what it takes to prepare a vehicle for space through hands-on activities. They also used age-appropriate mathematical calculations to more fully understand related processes.
- NASA connections for Rogers Explorers and Rogers Scholars have been scheduled with NASA for 2010 camps.
- About 65 students at Lincoln County High School didn't have to read about the Holocaust in their history books to learn more about one of the most horrific events of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The CenterNET2 videoconferencing network bridged a nearly 800-mile gap to bring those students face to face with two Holocaust survivors
- CenterNET2 Project Manager is serving on the 2010 World Equestrian Games (WEG) subcommittee. The goal for the project is to focus on the mission of the WEG 2010. Programming is to be delivered through Internet2. Prior to the games, students will interact with equine experts in three virtual events held on Internet2. The first of these will occur in the spring of 2009, the second in the fall of 2009, and the third in the spring of 2010 immediately after the state testing period. Students will be involved in the planning and implementation of these virtual events.

**Projected output will include but not restricted to:**

- a. Live, student produced, real-time reporting about issues related to horses, Kentucky, and the WEG 2010.

b. Students and teachers will be linked with experts in virtually all equine-related fields, including veterinarians, trainers, competitors, economists, and scientists.

### **Objectives**

- a. Engage students in the process of designing and implementing web-based events related to the 2010 WEG.
  - b. Bring together an international equine community of experts and provide access to their knowledge and expertise via web-based connections
  - c. Promote the eight events of the 2010 WEG.
- Monticello schools will bus 400 students to The Center to participate in four virtual field trips on two consecutive days in the theater. Programs will be presented by The Kentucky Historical Society and NASA.
  - Co-author of Videoconferencing in the Classroom, Jan Zanetis for a connected via video to Gear Up participants March 27<sup>th</sup>. Jan and her sons will talk about how they stay in touch via the technology. The title of the session is “From Low Tech to High Tech: Ways to Stay in Touch.”
  - The Kentucky Historical Society is now a content provider for virtual field trip opportunities via video. The KHS made their first round of content available to CenterNET2 members.
    - 164 CenterNET2 sites are serviced across the state
    - 2,702 educational programs posted on CenterNET2 calendars

### **Website Resources**

[www.centertech.com](http://www.centertech.com)

- 8,000 average monthly unique visits to The Center’s main website: *centertech.com*

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

- 7,397 number of unique visitors who have used the Ky. Entrepreneur Accelerator Network (KyEAN) website in the past 12 months

[www.rogersscholars.com](http://www.rogersscholars.com)

- This website provides all the program information needed by students and parents interested in learning more about the application process, scholarships and more.

[www.centerNET2.com](http://www.centerNET2.com)

- This website is a specialized videoconferencing portal for those wanting more technical information, departmental contacts, and updates on the latest technological advances.

[www.centertech.com/arts](http://www.centertech.com/arts)

- This sister website to *centertech.com* is designed to be a clearinghouse for arts-related information for The Center’s 42-county primary service area in Southern and Eastern Ky.

### **Web-based Education Support Services**

- Approximately 115,000 active KCTCS\* students and 2,832 Active teachers are provided course management services (CMS)

... AND 11,538 active students and 474 active teachers at additional institutions are provided course management services (CMS) as well

- 185,585 KCTCS student accounts and 4,903 teacher accounts to date populate the course management system (CMS).

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- 15,320 KCTCS courses managed by The Center
  - 153,000 KCTCS email accounts are hosted by The Center

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KCTCS has just launched its new VLI (Virtual Learning Initiative) for continuing education With 854 new course shells, covering over 100 course modules with more to come

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Just over **1.9 billion** hits have been recorded by our CMS Internet portal

*\*KCTCS: Ky. Community and Technical College System*

- Murray State University has seen **190 million** web requests
- Lincoln Memorial University has seen **100 million** web requests

### **Business Services**

- Disaster Recovery site for the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities
- Video production provider for Preston-Osborne's Coal Education DVD
- Hosting provider for the KCTCS SharePoint and Content Management Systems
- Virtual Publication Hosting service launched in 2009 with 3 client companies
- 250+ web services clients served since 2003
- 80 websites currently hosted on our 70 megabyte Internet connection
- 400+ Center-hosted "Voice over IP" (VoIP) phones deployed since 7/06
- Host site for the annual "Convergence" statewide distance learning conference
- Host site for the 2009 statewide Courseware Management System meeting
- Hosting 200+ online Mediasite presentations for a dozen organizations
- The Center was the national winner of the 2009 Rich Media Impact Award from Sonic Foundry in the Government category
- Providing high speed internet access and datacenter services to companies at the Valley Oak Technology Park and the Valley Oak Industrial Park
- Providing high-quality video production services to the district.

### **Technology Training**

- C-TRAIN program:

\_\_ C-TRAIN was a technology training grant funded by the Small Business Administration (SBA) and administered through The Center that enabled eligible businesses to seek financial assistance to train their employees in qualified areas of technology expertise.

- \$3,363,520 was awarded in 275 C-Train training grants
  - 3,758 area employees benefited from C-Train in 40 of our 42 counties
- 18,000 individuals have benefited from other Center technology training programs

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

\_\_ The Center's Public Safety Program consists of three primary areas:

- Rural Law Enforcement Technology Center (now Small, Rural, Tribal, & Border Regional Center)
- Homeland Security Certificate Program
- The Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (Strategic Partner)

### **Law Enforcement Technology (LET) Program**

Formerly there was a fourth component to The Center's Public Safety Program, The Law Enforcement Technology (LET) Program. The LET program is now complete. All support for the technology deployed has now transitioned to the state or the individual departments. Below is total impact the program had on the region.

- 1,600 laptop computers and ancillary equipment were installed in law enforcement, fire and emergency medical vehicles across the region
- 74 towers were originally utilized to maintain a wireless network to provide "mobile equipment" connectivity. With the transition of the network support to the Commonwealth, 14 of these have been taken off the air due to financial shortfalls.
- 40 local 911 dispatch centers and Kentucky State Police posts were equipped with Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software
- 16 local 911 Dispatch Centers installed with CAD/Mobile and Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) functionality.
- 2,202 Help Desk calls taken and resolved through June 30, 2008

The Public Safety Program's LET implementation was one of the most ambitious Public Safety initiatives ever undertaken in Kentucky. The technology deployed in the regions wireless data network was adopted by the Kentucky Wireless Interoperability Executive Committee as a statewide standard. As a result, officers using their Mobile Data Terminals (MDT's) will be able to travel anywhere in the Commonwealth and use their computers to communicate with their home department or to other agencies connected to the network. Agencies from across the state are continuing to deploy this technology with the assistance of the Kentucky Office for Homeland Security.

### **Small, Rural, Tribal, & Border Regional Center (SRTB-RC) Formerly the Rural Law Enforcement Technology Center (RULETC)**

\_\_ The Center became the host agency of the RULETC in March of 2007 to provide administrative support, technical and infrastructure support, and structured project development.

\_\_ This natural partnership has served to leverage the common mission and goals of both The Center and the Rural Law Enforcement Technology Center

\_\_ RULETC was a *specialty center* in the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technical Center system of the National Institute of Justice Office of Science and Technology – a division of the U.S. Department of Justice. The main focus of RULETC was to assist small and rural law enforcement agencies across the nation through collaboration, cooperation, and innovation.

The National Institute of Justice elected to re-compete the cooperative agreements with the entities hosting the NLECTC system centers. The Center for Rural Development submitted a successful proposal to maintain sponsorship of RULETC. Under the new cooperative agreement, the program has been re-branded as the Small, Rural, Tribal, & Border Regional Center and the mission has now expanded to include border and tribal agencies.

SRTB-RC has two primary Focus Areas:

- Outreach & General Technical Assistance
- Supporting NIJ's Testing, and Evaluation efforts.

Important SRTB-RC initiatives:

**Low cost Firearm Simulation Training**

SRTB-RC had managed a firearms simulation training demonstration project utilizing a highly sophisticated expensive simulator system from AIS Prism. This system was made available to law enforcement agencies across the country to assist in improving their decision making and judgmental skills. Due to the cost of the system, most agencies across the country could not afford to purchase one for their own use. However as the firearms simulation training has proven so successful SRTB-RC is now undertaking a project to evaluate lower cost solutions that may be within the price range of smaller departments. Three systems have been purchased and issued three different agencies. Each of these systems is from different manufacturer. After using the low cost simulators for a period of 6-8 months, the agencies will trade out with each other so each will have exposure to the different technologies being tested. The data from this evaluation will be compiled to assist agencies with purchasing decisions when considering systems of this type.

**Small Agency Summit**

As is the norm for the distribution of funds, typically 80 percent of the available funding from the Federal government is awarded to 20 percent of the law enforcement agencies across the nation. This 20 percent is made up of the largest metropolitan agencies in the country. What is not widely known is the fact that approximately 80 percent of law enforcement service is delivered by agencies with less than 50 officers. This is the demographic SRTB-RC supports.

The initial session of the Small & Rural Summit was conducted in Tulsa, Oklahoma in August, 2009. With approximately 63 representatives from more than 50 agencies from across the nation, the Summit was a great success. The wrap-up is scheduled for later in 2010.

**Aviation Initiative**

The National Institute of Justice has initiated a program to evaluate the effectiveness and viability of the use of small light sport aircraft for use by small and rural law enforcement agencies. Aircraft normally associated with law enforcement can cost millions of dollars to purchase and hundreds of thousands a year to operate. In contrast, light sport aircraft can be purchased for approximately \$100,000 and operational costs are reduced proportionately. The aircraft under evaluation have proven to be ideal platforms for drug enforcement, low level reconnaissance, search and rescue and surveillance. At the greatly reduced costs, these aircraft are within reach of small and rural agencies especially if they form partnerships to share the costs associated with them. SRTB-RC is actively involved in this initiative and has engaged the services of an experienced pilot and former law enforcement officer to assist those agencies intending to implement such a program with developing plans and operational policies for the administration of an aviation program.

SRTB-RC has purchased 2 aircraft; 1 Sky Arrow and 1 Tecnam Eaglet. The Tecnam is stationed at the Fleming-Mason Airport and the Sky Arrow is now stationed in Guilford County, North Carolina. This program is now in the operational phase of the project with data being submitted monthly for statistical use.

**Critical Incident Emergency Communications Demonstrator**

SRTB-RC has developed and assembled a Critical Incident Emergency Communications Demonstrator consisting of a small recreational trailer that houses a sophisticated communications interoperability system. This system is designed to provide communications to first responders in areas hit by either a natural or manmade disaster. The Unit is capable of sustaining 4 personnel for 14 days, has its own power source, can establish Voice over Internet Protocol telephony and radio communications within 30-60 minutes of arrival on scene. It was successfully tested in a joint simulated pandemic exercise with the National Guard and Kentucky Emergency Management in November.

Staff continues to test the Response Trailer through small off-site exercises. Planning is underway to conduct joint training exercises with the National Guard and KY Emergency management. SRTB-RC has also procured the equipment necessary to allow the communications command center to be removed from the trailer and be air lifted to remote areas.

### **Rural Law Enforcement Technology Institute**

One of the most successful and potentially beneficial outreach programs conducted by SRTB-RC is the Rural Law Enforcement Technology Institute. Initially the Institute was an annual event however due to its popularity; it is now conducted on a semi-annual basis. Each session brings together 30-40 law enforcement administrators from agencies that have applied technology in an innovative manner to solve problem they were facing or are in need of a solution for a problem. The social/professional networking opportunities provided to the attendees have resulted in many innovative ideas that have solved problems for agencies across the country. The Spring Rural Institute was conducted in May 2010 in San Diego and was another great success. This brings the total number of graduates from the Institute to 292. The next Rural Law Enforcement Technology Institute is scheduled for October, 2010.

### **To date, SRTB-RC staff accomplished or assisted in completing the following activities:**

Law Enforcement Aviation: The Aviation program flew 33 operational missions during the first six months of 2010. Several missions were not accepted due to the many instances of severe weather during the quarter. This was in addition to numerous training and pilot check flights and equipment testing/evaluation flights.

Law Enforcement Credentialing Program: This program provides agencies that do not have access to credentialing resources with professionally designed and produced identification credentials for their officers. SRTB-RC produced 242 credentials to bona fide law enforcement officers in the first six months of 2010

Video Expert Sharing Technology: This program duplicates and distributes instructional and information CDs/DVDs to agencies across the entire nation. Subject matter includes: Less Lethal Technologies and Implications, School Risk Assessment and Response Plan Generator, Shift Scheduling Software plus many more topics. A total of 3,920 CDs/DVDs were distributed in the first six months of 2010

SRTB-RC is now serving as liaison between local agencies and the US Government for the Department of Defense's Surplus Property Program. This program provides serviceable equipment to law enforcement agencies at little or no cost. During the first six months of 2010, SRTB-RC's Surplus Property Coordinator assisted 41 agencies with acquiring property.

### **Homeland Security Certificate Program**

- Over 4400 First Responders are enrolled in the Homeland Security Terrorism Prevention Certificate Programs.
- 85 certificates were awarded this quarter.
- 21 community colleges and Universities are participating in the IPS Academic Partnership Program.

- *Homeland Security Terrorism Prevention Certificate Course for Fire Service Professionals* is in final stage of DHS certification.
- *Certificate Course for Emergency Management Professionals* is in the planning and development stage.

#### Important Homeland Security Training initiatives for 2010:

##### **IPS Academic Partnership Program (APP)**

The IPS has initiated an Academic Partnership Program that will encourage institutions of higher education to assimilate the Homeland Security Certificate Program and other IPS educational content into existing homeland security and criminal justice related courses. The intent of this program is to introduce Department of Homeland Security certified training philosophies to future first responders and mid-level first responder professionals who are pursuing Associates, Bachelor's and Master's level degrees.

IPS has added the following institutions of higher education to the IPS Academic Partner program:

1. Capella University
2. Fountain Head College of Technology
3. Auburn Hills Community College
4. U.S. Navy Center for Security Studies
5. American Board for Certification in Homeland Security (ABCHS)

##### **Terrorism Prevention Certificate Course for Fire Service Professional (FSP)**

The IPS is currently in the final stages of the DHS course certification process for the FSP and have added closed-captioning capabilities to all course videos. This final stage consists of a DHS subject matter expert (SME) review of the completed course. IPS is engaged in a complete course review using SME's from the International Association of Fire Fighters. Certification of the course is expected to take place by the end of the Fourth Quarter 2010.

##### **Terrorism Prevention Certificate Course for Emergency Management Professional (EMP)**

The IPS is currently in the planning and development stages of developing the EMP course. IPS is working with Instructors and Administrators from the Department of Homeland Security's Emergency Management Institute and The International Emergency Manager's Association to evaluate and develop the Emergency Management Professionals Course.

##### **Military use of the Homeland Security Certificate program and IPS educational content**

The IPS has received several requests from U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force military/security police units to use the LEP certificate course. During the 2009 FY, IPS conducted several needs assessments and beta testing of the LEP course at select Army and Air Force installation to determine best practices for future military use of the Homeland Security Certificate Program.

Additionally, the U.S. Navy's Center for Security Forces has endorsed and approved the IPS LEP course for all Navy security personnel. To date over 200 Naval Master-at-Arm personnel have completed the LEP course.

##### **The Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (RDPC)**

- The CRD is a Strategic Partner with the RDPC with a primary focus on using The CRD's expertise in the use of technology to develop and deliver education and training.
- Over 30 Instructor-led and web-based course in the planning and development phases.

- Over 5,200 courses delivered in FY 2009
  - 49 states impacted
  - 5,026 distinct students
- Completion of the [www.ruraltraining.org](http://www.ruraltraining.org) online training registration and delivery system. New RDPC registration system includes:
  - XML course completion reporting tools
  - XML course schedule reporting tools
  - Google Maps to training location
  - Course completion certificate generation
- Creation of Social Media tools for RDPC, including Facebook page, YouTube channel, and Twitter page.

Important RDPC initiatives for 2010 and forward:

**Continued Development and Certification of Training Courses**

The RDPC and its six academic partners are actively working on the design, development and DHS certification of first responder training courses. Currently there are over 30 courses in the design and development stages of certification with DHS. RDPC will continue with the planned development, certification and delivery of these courses throughout FY 2010.

**Delivery of Training**

The RDPC uses two methods of delivering training, instructor led courses and web-based courses. The more traditional instructor led training can be residence training or mobile training given at multiple locations while the web-based training is available to registered first responders on a 24/7/365 basis. Currently the RDPC has over 63 instructor led course scheduled for delivery in 3rd and 4th QTR FY 2010.

CRD is playing a key role in the development and ongoing support of the RDPC web portal and training platform. Currently the system is capable of supporting online registration, enrollment and course delivery of up to 25,000 students simultaneously. Additionally the CRD has developed online collaboration tools to support future course development between RDPC Academic Partners and DHS.

Additionally, the CRD is actively pursuing solutions for the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) Training and Credentialing requirement. The objective is to create an enhanced identification and credentialing solution that shares first responder training and credentialing information with each jurisdiction in the U.S.

**ARTS AND CULTURE**

**Arts & Culture at The Center**

- 5,500 students annually enjoy the performing arts through *School Time Theater*
- 15 *Center Stage, School Time Theater, and Children's Prime Time Theatre* performances were presented during September 2009 – May 2010.
- 36,213 individuals attended 73 theater performances this recent fiscal year
- 276,311 individuals attended 1,765 non-theater events this recent fiscal year
- 7,189 total events and performances have been hosted at The Center since its opening in 1996 including 329 theatre performances and 6,860 non-theater events.

... AND 1,215,837 people have attended The Center events since its opening, including 150,118 theater attendees and 1,065,719 non-theater attendees.

- During May nearly 500 tickets were sold to one Center Stage performance, *Golden Dragon Acrobats Cirque D'OR*. A pre-show event with a catered dinner and interactive entertainment by *Jeff's Wild Sounds* was held prior to the performance and approximately 100 people in attendance. There were no Children's Prime Time Theatre or School Time Theatre performances scheduled during April, May & June as the 2009-2010 season concluded in March.
- A new visual arts exhibit was installed on May 28. The exhibit entitled *We're in the Pink* consists of 54 photographs that were the winners in a Tour Southern and Eastern Kentucky redbud photography competition.

### **Arts & Culture Regional Outreach**

- More than 15,000 students at 58 schools benefited from The Center's education arts outreach programs in 2006-2007. During the 2007-2008 school year, nearly 11,500 students at 72 schools attended these educational arts performance events hosted at their schools by The Center's arts outreach program. During both school years, these outreach programs were hosted by The Center in at least one school in each of our 42 counties throughout Southern and Eastern Kentucky.
- For the 2008-2009 school year, outreach programs focused on the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial. By the end of May, more than 10,000 students attended these programs, which were hosted for at least one school in each of the counties in The Center's 42-county primary service region.
- The Center was instrumental in the organization of the Kentucky Appalachian Craft Council; a group consisting of craft guilds and co-operatives from around the Southern and Eastern Kentucky region.
- The Kentucky Appalachian Craft Council partnered with The Center to host the first annual Kentucky Appalachian Craft Fair in June 2007, with the second annual fair being held in June 2008. Attendance for both years has averaged well over 1,000 individuals, with nearly 50 exhibitors and demonstrators participating each year. The June 2009 attendance was nearly 1,200.
- The Center partnered with the Kentucky Center for Performing Arts, the Kentucky Arts Council, and Kentucky Educational Television to host the 2008 Arts Education Day in conjunction with the Kentucky Center's Arts Education Showcase. On March 13<sup>th</sup>, 585 students from 6 schools attended arts education performance showcases, twelve hands-on arts workshops and had lunch while spending an arts-focused day at The Center. This event was again hosted at The Center in 2009, with the Kentucky Center's Arts Education Showcase being held on March 11. Two-hundred students from 8 schools attended these showcases and participated in 4 hands-on arts workshops as a part of this program.
- Professional development workshops focused on arts-related issues are hosted each year throughout the region in partnership with Kentucky Arts Council and the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Program. During 2005/2006, twelve workshops were held; 2006/2007, five workshops were hosted, and during 2007/2008, The Center co-hosted five workshops. Workshop topics range from artist

development, to the use of arts in education, and using arts in health and wellness programs.

- The Center has hosted two youth events. The first, “Carrying on the Tradition – Youth in Bluegrass Music” was held on September 15, 2006 bringing together young bluegrass and folk musicians and cloggers from across Southern and Eastern Kentucky. “Choral Music from the Mountains” was held on October 27, 2007 and included performances by middle and high school choral groups from various schools in the region. These music programs were hosted for the purpose of exchanging cultures through the arts and to provide young performers the experience of a professional performance setting – ideally to encourage and inspire them to pursue the development of their talents.
  
- Arts Outreach programs are being taken to elementary schools in The Center’s 42-county region. Morehead State University’s Little Company has been engaged to present their production of *Some Assembly Required* as well as arts education workshops that are conducted following the performances. The outreach program was taken to Perry and Knott counties in March with approximately 941 students being served. During April this program was taken to four elementary schools in Harlan, Leslie and Pulaski counties with nearly 1200 students and teachers in attendance. This program will continue through fall 2011.