

The Center for Rural Development

- *Impact Report* -

Through 02-05-08

The Center for Rural Development “**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 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 Ky. Scholars have the opportunity to interact with state and national leaders and work with high-quality instructors.

___ Developed in 1996 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.

- 539 Rogers Scholars (RS) graduates
- 13 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 the Cumberlands
- \$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 eighth 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 program was initiated in 2006

- 63 Rogers Explorers graduates in all

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
- 44 Entrepreneurial Leadership Institute (ELI) graduates total
- 7 ECU Presidential Scholarships were provided to ELI students

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.

___ *Forward in the Fifth* is hosted by The Center and focuses on the strengthening of connections between businesses, educators, parents and student to help schools meet the standards set by state and national reforms and increase student achievement. A soon-to-be-launched website design will enable individuals to contribute financially to specific programs.

- Five regional forums hosted across Southern and Eastern Ky. The forums are designed to allow community leaders representing sub-sections of our 42-county region to voice concerns for their region going forward and brainstorm on possible solutions, as well as identify programs within the area that may represent “best practice” ideas to be shared with other counties.
- Four communities received \$10,000 grants to assist in implementing their 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. *This process was geared to reward communities that had developed strategic plans and increase motivation to develop one for those that had not. The funds came from a \$40,000 Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant secured by The Center.*
- Leadership program graduates (250) from across the region attended The Center’s inaugural Leadership Summit in Sep. of 2007.
- In the Agricultural Outreach Program: The Center hosted one of only three statewide 25x’25 Green Energy town hall meetings in 2007; The Center has partnered with the University of Ky. College of Ag to further develop the Kentucky Entrepreneurial Coaches Institute’s effort to advance the training of leaders in our rural communities. Thirty applicants were accepted into the first class with the first training program to be held at The Center in Feb.; The Center hosted and was a primary sponsor of the first Ky. Woodlots Conference, bringing together stakeholders representing Ky. agriculture and forestry interests. The conference, subtitled “Capture the Value” and held on Feb. 20, attracted 150-plus attendees from as far as 200 miles away and featured nationally recognized subject matter experts.

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

__ There are currently 2,069 programs posted to the CenterNET2 website.

__ 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. (10-07)

- Due to the growth of the CenterNET2 network, we have now put into place a Tier1 & Tier2 line of helpdesk support. All helpdesk calls have been forwarded to the NOC, if Tier1 is unable to resolve an issue, the call will then be forwarded to Tier2. This will also free up Tier2 to respond to additional in-house networking/technical support.
- The impact of Emily Stapleton's story and donated efforts of the initial corporate partners continues to inspire as news of more Ashland businesses and several national organizations contribute with helpful products or services for Emily and the school. Thus far, the story has been broadcast on Channel3 and WKYT news, printed in The Ashland Daily Independent, Louisville Courier-Journal newspaper and linked to the Kentucky Education Network, The Associated Press, and Commonwealth Videoconferencing Network websites.
- Internet2 is now in place. Team members are looking for a method to bridge the HD (high definition) connection to CenterNET2 sites across the state. At this time, students can participate in I2 sessions from The Center's classroom.
- Students from Pineville Independent, Corbin Independent and Somerset schools are exchanging email addresses to gear up for connections with Hong Kong students on the Pen Pal and cultural exchange collaborations. Bellevue Independent will be hosting technology day for teachers and parents across the state. Connections have been coordinated with multiple content providers who will present their content in 30-minute sessions.
- CenterNET2 is partnering with Dell, Windstream, AT&T and Tandberg to provide a terminally ill student in northern Kentucky with videoconferencing equipment and connectivity to give access to daily school sessions
- Bellevue Independent hosted technology day for teachers and parents across the state. Connections were coordinated with content providers who presented content in 30-minute sessions. Content providers participating were as follows: COSI Toledo, The Puppetry of Arts, (voted 2006 & 2007 Teacher's Choice for Best Content Provider - Fine Arts), The Center for Interactive Learning & Collaboration, Mote Marine Laboratory and The Frazier Museum. Participated in a panel discussion with 30 teachers that day sharing collaborations and projects CenterNET2 has participated in and how videoconferencing enhances the classroom.

Website Resources

www.centertech.com

- 7,300 average monthly unique visits to The Center's main website: *centertech.com*

www.kyea.org

- 1,475 number of unique visitors who have used the Ky. Entrepreneur Accelerator Network (KyEAN) website since 11/05

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

- 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

- 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

- 77,129 active KCTCS students and 2,832 Active teachers are provided course management services (CMS)
 - ... AND 9,038 active students and 464 active teachers at additional institutions are provided course management services (CMS) as well
- 185,085 KCTCS* student accounts and 4,903 teacher accounts to date populate the course management system (CMS).
- 17,681 KCTCS* courses hosted by The Center
- 153,000 KCTCS email accounts are managed by The Center
- 241 million hits have been recorded by our CMS Internet portal

* KCTCS: *Kentucky Community and Technical College System*

Business Services

- 130+ web services clients served since 2003
- 40 websites currently hosted on our 70 megabyte Internet connection
- 400+ Center-hosted "Voice over IP" (VoIP) phones deployed since 7/06

Technology Training

- C-TRAIN program:

__ C-TRAIN is a technology training grant funded by the Small Business Administration (SBA) and administered through The Center that enables eligible

businesses to seek financial assistance to train their employees in qualified areas of technology expertise.

- \$3,363,520 has been awarded in 275 C-Train training grants
- 3,758 area employees have 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:

- Law Enforcement Technology Program
- Homeland Security Certificate Program
- Rural Law Enforcement Technology Center

Law Enforcement Technology (LET) Program

- 1,600 laptop computers and ancillary equipment have been installed in law enforcement, fire and emergency medical vehicles across the region
- 74 towers are utilized to maintain a wireless network to provide "mobile equipment" connectivity
- 40 local 911 dispatch centers and Kentucky State Police posts have been equipped with Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software
- 16 local 911 Dispatch Centers installed with CAD/Mobile and Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) functionality.
- 1,048 Help Desk calls taken and resolved since Jan. 1, 2007.

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 region's 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.

Homeland Security Certificate Program

- 1,600 Police Officers enrolled in the *Homeland Security Terrorism Prevention Certificate Course for Law Enforcement Professionals PER-281*
- 293 fire fighters participated in testing of the *Homeland Security Terrorism Prevention Certificate Course for Fire Service Professionals*
- 14 Stakeholders meetings conducted with community colleges nationwide to implement local delivery of the Certificate Program
- 2 "Train the Trainer" courses for *Terrorism and All Hazards Preparedness and Prevention Course for Law Enforcement Professionals* have been delivered
- *Certificate Course for Emergency Management Professionals* has just been announced.

Rural Law Enforcement Technology Center (RULETC)

__ The Center assumed sponsorship of the RULETC in March of 2007 to provide administrative support, technical and infrastructure support, and structured project development.

__ This natural partnership will serve to leverage the common mission and goals of both The Center and the Rural Law Enforcement Technology Center

__ RULETC is 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.

- RULETC has four Focus Areas: Outreach; Technical Assistance; Capacity Building (training); and Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation.
- The Mobile Technology Demonstrator trailer has been in 39 states supplying small and rural agency officers allowing access to important Firearms Simulator training experience.
- The on-site Driving Simulator allows officers the ability to experience hazardous driving conditions and learn safety techniques in a safe, but realistic, environment.

Three important RULTEC initiatives for the fall/winter of 2007:

Counter Drug Initiative

RULETC has been directed by the National Institute of Justice to stand up a Counter Drug Technology Working Group. This group's mission is to identify the needs of law enforcement in combating the unlawful narcotic industry and work to satisfy those needs through the resources of the National Institute of Justice and the Rural Law Enforcement Technology Center. The Counter Drug Technology Working Group will consist of experienced practitioners, scientists and research analysts who have worked in the area of drug detection, enforcement and prosecution.

Not only will this group strive to provide officers with tools for investigating and prosecuting drug cases; it will work to develop technologies that can provide officers with an early warning of the presence of potentially harmful components used in unlawful drug production.

School Safety Initiative

RULETC has been also been charged with the administration of the School Safety Technology Working Group. The School Safety TWG works to identify technologies and potential best practices to better secure the school campuses across the country. Remote controlled surveillance systems are being testing that can directly interface with local law enforcement agencies in the event of a critical incident occurring on school property. There are also initiatives underway that will provide school officials with the ability to identify registered sex offenders attempting to access the school grounds. RULETC is also actively hosting nationally recognized training for response to school shootings for small and rural agencies from across the nation.

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 less that \$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. RULETC 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

ARTS AND CULTURE

Arts & Culture at The Center

- 5,000 students annually enjoy the performing arts through *School Time Theater*
- 24 *Center Stage, School Time Theater, and Children's Prime Time Theatre* performances scheduled for the 2007 season

- 15,660 individuals attended 33 theater performances from July '06 through June '07.
- 87,861 individuals attended 601 non-theater events from July '06 through June '07.

- 6,234 total events and performances have been hosted at The Center since its opening in 1996 including 289 theatre performances and 5,945 non-theater events.
... *AND* 1,059,450 people have attended The Center events since its opening, including 131,565 theater attendees and 927,925 non-theater attendees

Arts & Culture Regional Outreach

- More than 15,000 students benefited from The Center's education arts outreach programs in 2006-2007, and even more will benefit in 2007-2008.
- 12 professional development "arts and culture" workshops will be hosted by The Center this year
- The Center was instrumental in the organization of the Ky. Appalachian Craft Council; a group consisting of professional crafters from around the Southern and Eastern Ky. region.
- The Kentucky Appalachian Craft Council partnered with The Center to host the first-ever Ky. Appalachian Craft Fair in June 2007. The tremendous success of this first event sealed the hosting of a follow up fair in June 2008.
- The Center hosted two youth events in the fall of 2007: "Carrying on the Tradition – Youth in Bluegrass Music" in Sept. 2007 and "Choral Music from the Mountains" in Oct. 2007. 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.