

## APRIL

**SKED appoints new officers and directors:** In its 18<sup>th</sup> year of incorporation, **Southern Kentucky Economic Development Corp.** (SKED) is facing rapid change and growth. Due to the retirement of longtime director David Ravencraft in December 2003 and the resignations this spring of two board members, three positions were left vacant. Following a **lengthy selection process**, three new directors and a new executive committee was approved by the Board in March. The new officers and directors took office in April.

The **new SKED Executive Committee** is as follows: Jerry Carey, President and CEO of Union National Bank & Trust Company, President; Daryl Smith, LG&E Energy Economic Development Executive, Vice-President; Dr. Jo Marshall, President and CEO of Somerset Community College, Secretary; and Mike Hayes, Director of Kentucky Highlands Empowerment Zone, Treasurer. New directors are Tim Barnes, Don Schaefer, and Ben Sams.

SKED Executive Director Greg Jones said, "The decisions made by our Board of Directors **shape the direction of the organization**, and I feel like our mission and future growth are in good hands with this slate of officers and directors."

**Youth attend Leadership Summit:** On April 17<sup>th</sup>, hundreds of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders from Southern and Eastern Kentucky gathered at Southeast Community College's Cumberland Campus for a day long summit. Focused on conveying **the importance** of developing **leadership** and **entrepreneurial** skills, the summit gave students a sampling of the adventures that await them after high school and opened their eyes to the many **entrepreneurial opportunities** available right in their own backyards.

**James Malinchak**, author of the internationally acclaimed *Teenagers Tips for Success*, and contributing author and associate editor for the best-selling book series *Chicken Soup for the Soul* was the **keynote speaker** for the event. Charley Simpson of Southeast Community College also made a **dynamic presentation** based on Stephen Covey's book, *7 Habits for Highly Effective Teens*. In the afternoon, Charleen Combs and Bob Harris from Data Futures of Harlan, Kentucky presented their **personal success story of transforming their vision** of developing a corporate technology service into reality right here in Southern and Eastern Kentucky.

Made possible through the **unique partnership** of The Center and Southeast Community College, funding was provided in part through a special HUD grant.

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## MONTHLY MINI's

- During the month of April, The Center awarded **nine regional** businesses a total of \$67,252 in **C-TRAIN grants**, making the total awarded to date **\$2,161,727**. C-TRAIN grants were awarded for the training of 56 employees in the following organizations: **Medical Investment Trust, Southeast Telephone**, Pike County; **Amcor P.E.T. Packaging, Blue Grass Energy Cooperative**, Jessamine County; **Tri-County Mortgage, First Corbin Data**, Whitley County; **Senture**, Laurel County; **Lindsey Wilson College**, Adair County; and **Highland Regional Medical Center**, Floyd County.
- **Log on now to [www.centertech.com](http://www.centertech.com)** to see up to date information on the **exciting events** and opportunities The Center has to offer, including: updated **Computer** and Business Education courses, **2004 Rogers Scholars** selections, special events, and the current edition of *Connections*, our quarterly newsletter.
- The 2003-2004 CenterStage, Prime Time, and SchoolTime Theater season presented by LCPA at **The Center recently wrapped up another year of successful programming**. LCPA and The Center are already hard at work **scheduling an exciting lineup** of quality performing arts presentations for 2004-2005.

## MAY

**SEKDTA to launch Redbud Trails program:** Beautiful pink and purple flowers of redbud trees have always provided a **splash of color** to Kentucky's Scenic Byways – now the **Southern and Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association** is working to **enhance the natural beauty** of the state and create tourism opportunities as well through the Redbud Trails program.

In this program, SEKDTA will **identify locations** on or near **National Scenic Byways** where the redbuds are found in abundance, and plant new trees to create a Redbud Trail. They will also plant new trees in areas that are **readily viewable** by passersby. The Redbud Trails program creates an **enticement for tourists** to make the trek to Kentucky earlier in the year, in order to **admire the roadsides strewn with vivid redbuds**.

SEKDTA plans to kick off the Redbud Trails program with multiple tree planting ceremonies May 10, in conjunction with **PRIDE** (Personal Responsibility In a Desirable Environment). Local schoolchildren will take part in this planting, **learning about the environmental benefits** of tree planting, and will each take home a redbud of their own.

**2004 Rogers Scholars selections finalized:** Selections have been finalized for this year's class of **Rogers Scholars**. This prestigious program immerses the **best and brightest** high school sophomores from across the region in **technology, entrepreneurship, leadership, and community service** for one fun-filled week in July.

Rogers Scholars for 2004 are: Ryan Burris, **Adair**; Griffin Wilson, Richard Mason, Bradley Venable, **Bell**; Michael Oghia, **Breathitt**; Crosby Harris, **Clay**; Ed Brown, **Clinton**; Brittany Garner, **Cumberland**; Miranda McQueen, Rachel Mansfield, Megan Farthing, Bonnie Peterson, **Estill**; Kimberly Williams, **Floyd**; Randy Buckner, **Green**; Jacob Day, **Harlan**; Jacob Brumfield, Sara Lovitt, Michael Song, **Jessamine**; Devon Salyer, William LeMaster, **Johnson**; Amber Hall, **Knott**; Kaitlyn Doan, **Knox**; Michelle Combs, **Laurel**; Wesley Chaffin, **Lawrence**; Kendra Savage, **Lee**; Megan Johnson, **Leslie**; Beverly Allen, Joshua Tyree, Emily Sergent, Brooke Day, **Letcher**; Sarah Stevens, **Lincoln**; Jordan Montgomery, **Magoffin**; Whitney Thomas, **Menifee**; Jordan Estes, **Metcalfe**; Kelli Long, Haley Davis, Amanda Brown, John Baston, Cory Gearlds, Caitlin Hagan, Brooke High, **Monroe**; Chris McKenzie, **Morgan**; Stephanie Burke, Meghan Bostic, Megan Chaney, **Pike**; Daniel Cherry, Owen Wilson, Jacob Price, **Pulaski**; Brittany Kincer, **Rockcastle**; Megan Albert, **Rowan**; Sarah Burton, **Russell**; Brooke Bell, Meredith Angel, Emily Reynolds, **Taylor**; Kala Means, David Hughes, **Wayne**; Elizabeth Muffly, Curt Lawson, **Whitley**; Mark Rose, **Wolfe**.

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- The Community and Business Education department will be offering an **Excel 2000 Intermediate** course at The Center on **May 25 & 27**. To register, call 606-677-6000.
- The **3<sup>rd</sup> annual PRIDE Envi Awards** will be held May 17<sup>th</sup> at The Center. Over 700 people are expected to gather at the event to celebrate those communities, schools, and individuals who **demonstrated excellence** in pursuing PRIDE goals this year.
- In the month of May, the **Kentucky Watercolor Society Aqueous USA 2004** Travel Show will be on display for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row! After its showing at The Center, the exhibit of 15-20 beautiful watercolor paintings will be making its way around the Bluegrass State through September 30, 2004.
- **CenterNET** site to open in new state-of-the-art Lockmasters Security Institute: On Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, a **CenterNET** grand opening has been scheduled in conjunction with the grand opening of the **Lockmasters Security Institute's** new 23,000 square foot training facility in Jessamine County.