

April

Former Rogers Scholar involved in community

Cory Ricketts, a junior at Wolfe County High School, is making a difference in her community through community service projects after completing the Rogers Scholars program during the summer of '05.

Ricketts' first project consisted of working with the Wolfe County Reclaiming Futures Council to host a Fall Bash designed to connect youth and their families with positive activities.

Reclaiming Futures, in partnership with Kentucky River Community Care, has been building a more integrated, community-based approach to working with youth for three years. They provide substance abuse treatment programs, connect youth to education, and provide work opportunities, positive role models and productive activities.

Ricketts' efforts did not end there. She began working with UNITE, a non-profit organization working to rid communities of illegal drug use, to organize various events throughout the community. Activities included handing out anti-drug pamphlets and pencils to school-age children, presenting an anti-drug video and organizing "Project Prom" at Wolfe County High School. Future plans include working with UNITE to create a youth coalition to help fight the growing drug problem.

In addition, Ricketts was instrumental in helping to organize the SMILE (Students Making an Impact on Lives Everywhere) club at her school, which recently donated over \$200 to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

Kentucky's First Lady speaks at forum

Kentucky First Lady Glenna Fletcher spoke at the Kentucky Agency for Substance Abuse Policy (KY-ASAP) Board's Community Drug Abuse & Underage Drinking Forum held at The Center for Rural Development in Somerset on April 25. "The magnitude of the problem (underage drinking) is staggering to me," said Fletcher.

Other speakers included: Teresa Barton, Executive Director of the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Office of Drug Control Policy; Sherri Estes, Adanta Regional Prevention Center; Eddie Montgomery, Commonwealth Attorney; David Tapp, Pulaski County Circuit Judge; David Dalton, UNITE Prosecuting Attorney; Dr. Cristin Rolf, Chief Toxicologist, Commonwealth of Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office, and Dr. Glenn Proudfoot, ER Physician at Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital.

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- The Center's CenterNET2 videoconferencing technology program brought "The Excellence Edge" on April 26 to professionals throughout the region. Presenters included Ken Blanchard, Marcus Buckingham and Tom Peters, all best-selling business authors and well-respected corporate consultants. The five-hour presentation focused on today's competitive world. "A new landscape in global business is taking shape. Today's competitive world has fewer traditional boundaries, more new technologies and an increasingly conscientious consumer. With all of these challenges to business and life, comes great opportunity—for growth, for leadership and for excellence."

If individuals or businesses are interested in information concerning similar events, contact Robyn Phillips at 606-677-6000 or by e-mail at rphillips@centertech.com.

- April marked the end of the 2005-2006 Center Stage, Children's Prime Time and School Time Theatre performances.

For information concerning the 2006-2007 season, visit www.centertech.com for updates on new performances. The schedule is due out in July and will be posted on The Center's Website.

May

More opportunities for Rogers Scholars

The list is growing. Eight Kentucky colleges and universities have now partnered with The Center for Rural Development, illustrating their commitment to the youth of our region. The Rogers Scholars program, a youth leadership program developed from the original vision of Fifth District Congressman Hal Rogers, is hosted and administered by The Center and is celebrating its ninth year of operation. In the spirit of the Congressman's vision that, "no young person will need to leave home to find his or her future," the following institutions have announced scholarship packages for Rogers Scholars graduates: Lindsey Wilson College; Morehead State University; Lincoln Memorial University; Union College; University of the Cumberlands; and Pikeville College. Also making scholarship opportunity announcements in early May will be Somerset Community College and Eastern Kentucky University. Additional announcements are already in the planning stages as more regional colleges and universities recognize the relevance and vision of the Rogers Scholars program.

Center President and CEO Lonnie Lawson praised their efforts. "I applaud these colleges and universities for taking a leadership role in the future development of our region's youth and the region itself. These scholarships will provide a great incentive for our youth to continue their education within the 42-county region of Southern and Eastern Kentucky we call home."

For more information, please contact Jessica Melton, Rogers Scholars program coordinator, at jmelton@centertech.com or call at (606)677-6000. Please visit the website at www.rogersscholars.com for more program details.

Strategies summit to be held in Hazard

The Center is hosting the *Implementing Community Strategies* summit at the First Federal Center on the campus of Hazard Community and Technical College on May 26 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The recipients of the first *Implementing Community Strategies* grants will describe their projects and share lessons learned through this process. Ewell Balltrip, executive director of the National Institute for Hometown Security, and former executive director of the Kentucky Appalachian Commission, will serve as the keynote speaker. He will discuss the importance of strategic planning.

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- Nominees for the 2006 EIEA awards will be accepted through Monday, June 5. This year's finalists and the recipient for each category will be honored at a formal luncheon Monday, September 11 at The Center in Somerset. Congressman Hal Rogers will serve as the keynote speaker for the event.

Awards will be given in four categories - Business, Small Business, Start-ups, and Non-profits - and are determined by the economic success of the enterprise, contributions to the community, job creation and operational achievement as measured by innovative business practices, superior safety achievement and superior technology. If you or your organization knows of an entrepreneur that meets these qualities, we encourage you to submit a nomination.

Nominations should be sent to: Excellence in Entrepreneurship Committee, 317 Bert Combs Building, Eastern Kentucky University, 521 Lancaster Ave., Richmond, KY 40475-3102, or by submitting the 2006 Nomination Form at <http://www.cbt.eku.edu> (follow the Excellence in Entrepreneurship Awards links). Forms should be postmarked or e-mailed by June 5. Nominees will be contacted and asked to provide more detailed information. Award recipients will be chosen by a committee composed of partner representatives and selected external stakeholders.