

# The Center for Rural Development

## - *Impact Report* -

### Third Quarter 2011

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.

The 2011 Rogers Scholars sessions were held June 26-July 1 and July 10-July 15. 72 students were invited to The Center with representation from all 42 counties served within our region.

\_\_ 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.

- 804 Rogers Scholars (RS) graduates
- 16 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
  - University of Louisville
  - Western Kentucky University
- \$7.5 million 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 2011 Rogers Explorers was held on three campuses. Rogers Explorers at Lindsey Wilson College was held June 5-7. Rogers Explorers at University of the Cumberlands was held June 8-10. Rogers Explorers at Eastern Kentucky University was held July 20-22.

\_\_ A new Rogers Explorers program has been added for the summer of 2012. The program will be housed on the campus of Morehead State University June 6-8.

- The program was initiated in 2006.
- 331 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. During the summer of 2010, Rogers Explorer expanded and an additional 30 students were selected to participate on Eastern Kentucky University's campus.
- 90 students were invited to attend in summer 2011, 30 at each campus, with representation from the 42 counties within our service region with the exception of Clinton, Cumberland, Garrard, Green, Jessamine, Knott, Menifee, Metcalfe, Morgan, Monroe, and Owsley Counties.

## **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
- 169 Entrepreneurial Leadership Institute (ELI) graduates total
- The 2011 ELI program was held the week of June 12-17
- 40 students attended the summer 2011 ELI session

## **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 Appalachian Rural Development Philanthropy Initiative (ARDPI) is committed to helping the distressed counties of eastern Kentucky build the capacity to capture financial assets that will provide the long-term resources for community transformation. This work encourages citizen leaders to promote a culture of philanthropy and to create structures such as community foundations that will secure these assets for generations to come. ARDPI strives to position communities to respond strategically to factors in the philanthropy and economic development landscape. For example, as a result of long-term outmigration, the region faces a potential staggering impact of wealth being transferred out of communities as many in the generation inheriting these resources have already left the region. Substantial evidence of what communities might lose in this transition appears in *A Transfer of Wealth Study* completed in September 2010.

ARDPI's program work, via The Center, will include regional planning and convenings, training for communities, and the use of mini-grants to assist communities in planning for capturing and leveraging their local resources. The Center has contracted with the highly regarded Aspen Institute for Rural Strategies for this assistance in this work. Additionally, The Center has developed an on-the-ground consultant program to help pilot counties in five Appalachian Kentucky communities create community foundation infrastructures in their communities. The Center will work with leaders in Bell, Clay, Knox, Magoffin, and Whitley Counties to have the local community invest some of their local assets into the future development of their communities. The Center has contracted with the Blue Grass Community Foundation to conduct this intensive work.

- The Center's Working on Wellness Coalition, W.O.W., has now been in existence for nearly two years. The Center for Rural Development's partnership with the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky made it possible to begin the W.O.W. Health Advocacy Coalition in late 2008. Currently, the W.O.W. coalition serves and represents the Kentucky counties of Pulaski, Russell, and Wayne. W.O.W. meets once a month, alternating their meeting locations among the three counties served. The group has many members, of which 12 to 15 have remained active since the coalition's inception. Currently, W.O.W. is striving to begin efforts to encourage the school districts in the Lake Cumberland area to focus on implementing more physical activity within their schools days. The Working on Wellness Coalition now has a 30 minute promotional video, highlighting the work of the group – and most importantly – its health advocacy desires for the future. The Center encourages everyone in the Lake Cumberland region to learn about the W.O.W. Coalition and its work. Funding for year three of The Center's Working on Wellness Coalition, W.O.W., was awarded to continue services to Pulaski, Russell and Wayne Counties.
- 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 225 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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- The Center is expanding its training opportunities to include "Online LIVE", a new type of remote training. This program is in partnership with New Horizon's Learning Center and incorporates the best aspects of videoconferencing and computer-based interactive learning. The Center will no longer be limited to requiring class sizes of 6 or greater students. We can now address individual student learning in a cost effective manner.
- Through the ARC (Appalachian Regional Commission) funding of the *Developing and Implementing Community Strategies Program*, The Center has awarded 39 communities a total of over \$400,000 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.
- A third phase of ARC funding began in early 2010. Six communities received funding during the first round of Phase III funding for a total of \$54,800. A total of \$89,500 was awarded to eleven communities during the second round of Phase III for strategic planning development and implementation.
- Phase IV kicked off in July 2011 with 6 communities receiving a total of \$51,200. The communities that received funding are Bell, Letcher County, McCreary County, Morgan County, Wayne County, and the city of Wayland.
- Two leadership seminars were offered to elected officials and local leaders of distressed and at-risk communities. The first was held at The Center in Somerset on June 23, 2011 and the second was held at SRTB in Hazard on July 19, 2011. Laura Emberton Owens led both seminars and spoke about how to be an effective leader. More than 200 people were able to take advantage of this free leadership opportunity.
- The retention of young people within our region is a key focus of The Center. Keeping our best and brightest in our communities will be the center of the conversation and idea generation at the second Collegiate Summit to be held in October. Nineteen colleges and universities have been invited to select students from the ARC "Distressed Counties" list to suggest solutions in solving the "out-migration" dilemma. This event is a continuation from the initial session held in 2009 under the direction of The Center's Higher Education Consortium.
- Two additional staff have been hired to support the advancement of educational attainment across the region. A full-time administrative assistant and community education specialist will assist in current Center and Forward in the Fifth initiatives.

— *Forward in the Fifth*, an educational, non-profit organization located at The Center, focuses on strengthening connections between businesses, educators, parents and students. Its mission is to engage community stakeholders to communicate and advance the value of education; advocate for the advancement of all educational systems; and support the securing of resources for educational improvement in local communities.

Current efforts include:

- Civic literacy activity addressed in the 2009 and 2010 US Department of Education grant work included:
  - Three counties (Clay, Monroe, Pulaski) were awarded funding totaling \$4,500 in April to enhance educational opportunities in their respective communities as part of the Local Education Affiliate Program (LEAP). Each LEAP group is charged to engage various stakeholders within the county and continue addressing some of the unmet needs impacting education. A second round of funding will be awarded in Fall 2011 to additional counties.
  - As a continuation to the initial groundwork laid by the STAARS (Students Taking Action to Achieve Real Success) Summit held at The Center in December 2010, nearly 200 students had the opportunity to further explore a career of interest during a 2-week series of site visits to local employers in Pulaski County during the spring and fall semesters. Future work with the Network will facilitate community partners and students in increased college and career-ready readiness standards and a community awareness event highlighting the importance of securing an education in today's world.
  - Whitley County middle and high students (25) participated in an onsite session at The Center and Somerset Community College in May. The visit enabled students to hone skills on seeking employment for government-related careers and the necessary soft skills needed to be competitive.
  - A mentoring program paired 17 Union College students with younger middle school students to address both academic and social challenges. The mentoring program began in September and officially ended September 2011. Union College has expressed desire that the program will continue in subsequent years as a result of the previous partnership with The Center and Forward in the Fifth. Likewise, a partnership with the University of Pikeville has enabled the establishment of another student mentoring program with 18 college and middle school students. The Champion Scholars program will run throughout the 2011-12 school year incorporating a total of 5 Pike County middle schools.
  - Financial literacy presentations were delivered to 700 high school seniors in 5 school districts (Corbin, Monticello, Wayne County, Whitley County, Williamsburg) in May. Led by teachers and leaders in each community, students learned about the appropriate use of credit cards and large purchase loans (i.e., student loans, car, home). Additional dialogue with 3 new school districts within our region has yielded interest in joining the expansion of Project CARE to a large area of the region during the 2011-12 academic year.
  - Sixty-eight rising middle school students attended one of four STEM SELLS (Students Engaged in Life-Long Solutions) workshops held across Southern and Eastern Kentucky during the month of June. The two-day sessions engaged the participants with fun and challenging activities in the science, technology, engineering and math areas from Bell, Clinton, Lee and Morgan Counties.
  - To combat the high school dropout dilemma, a Stay in School Toolkit has been completed. Individuals have been identified and their stories captured on video depicting the importance of education and the role it has (or has not) played in their life. A variety of life experiences and challenges are presented which can be used to create awareness and media attention. Additionally, the resource includes content and resources that can be used in both instructional and community-based settings to increase awareness and spur action in increasing student graduation rates.
  - Refinement and development of marketing tools to highlight current efforts and status of educational issues are currently in process. The Forward in the Fifth logo, has been enhanced by the creation of a tagline and-development of additional collateral. Other items to be incorporated in the rebranding effort will include stationary, an electronic newsletter template, and website upgrades.

- Celebrating 25 years of work to improve educational advancement across Southern and Eastern Kentucky and realizing reform must continue to take place, Forward in the Fifth is planning its silver anniversary and an educational summit in November.

## 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

\_\_ The following sites have taken advantage of RUS grant slots: Somerset Community College, Williamsburg Ind, Elizabethtown Community College, McCreary Co High School, McCreary County Middle School and Gateway Community College. Williamsburg Independent and Gateway Community College installations are complete.

\_\_ United States Distance Learning Awards (USDLA) is partnering with CenterNET2 to provide satellite capabilities nation-wide for the annual distance learning awards.

\_\_ 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.

\_\_ 164 CenterNET2 sites are serviced across the state

\_\_ 2,702 educational programs posted on CenterNET2 calendars

- 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 2,702 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.
- Equipment purchases and installs will be made at Williamsburg Ind, Elizabethtown Community College and Gateway Community College through the RUS I grant award.
  - Monticello schools bused 400 students to The Center to participate in four virtual field trips on two consecutive days in the Center's theater. Programs will be presented by The Kentucky Historical Society, The Mariner's Museum and The Durham Museum
  - Lincoln County High School bused 200 students to The Center to participate in a virtual field trip with a Holocaust Survivor. The interactive program was presented by the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County in New York.
  - 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.
  - CenterNET2 hosted the following connections via video for the month: Stoker Jones Conference, Federal Regulations - COT and Owensboro, Russell Davis Deposition - Pikeville and COT ISDN Bridge/Esquire Solutions, South East Community College virtual field trip to Spain, Dental Conference – UK and eMissions Connection Test with Afton
  - CenterNET2 was featured in The Center for Interactive and Learning Collaborations (CILC) April issue of e-Note. The article covered best experience in videoconference, lessons learned and the CenterNET2 Coordinator was able to present a lingering question to other coordinators in the US via the NING

website. The article can be viewed at <http://myemail.constantcontact.com/CILC-e-Note--April-2011.html?soid=1101075640653&aid=03Vdaj1IUeQ>

- The innovative connections made by The Center for Rural Development's CenterNET2 videoconferencing network was highlighted at the Kentucky Society for Technology in Education's (KySTE) spring technology conference in Louisville. CenterNET2 Project Manager Robyn Phillips was invited to speak at the event, to share the ways CenterNET2 is using videoconferencing to connect students with people, places, and events around the world.
- Three Williamsburg Ind classes participated in the following virtual field trips: What's in a House to be presented by The Carnegie Museum of Natural History, tour of the reconstructed 17th century home of William Penn to be presented by Pennsbury Manor and Patriotism to be presented by [Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center](#).
- Eastern Kentucky University now uses The Center to handle its entire overflow of evening videoconference classes. This solves a major issue for them that could have resulted in the cancellation of classes.

### **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 120,000 active KCTCS\* students and 2,832 Active teachers are provided course management services (CMS)

... AND 16,334 active students and 474 active teachers at additional institutions are provided course management services (CMS) as well

- 192,523 KCTCS student accounts and 4,903 teacher accounts to date populate the course management system (CMS).

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- 18,255 KCTCS courses managed by The Center

- 156,000 KCTCS active 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 1800 new course shells, covering over 100 course modules with more to come

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Just over **3.1 billion** hits have been recorded by our CMS Internet portal

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

- Murray State University has seen **372 million** web requests
- Lincoln Memorial University has seen **155 million** web requests

*The Center for Rural Development has launched its initiative to host Moodle learning system environments, Moodle is an open source learning management system that allows smaller, budget challenged institutions an entry into online learning without the cost of very expensive license agreements charge by commercial companies. We have launched our moodle initiative with a new client (AMTEC, Automotive Manufacturing Technical Education Collaborative) that will include hosting administration and course development. The Center also recently attended the latest Midwest Moodle Moot held in Goshen Indiana where 3 of our staff got to dive head first into the moodle community.*

### **Business Services**

- The Center has entered into a partnership with DMD Data Systems to market and provide Cloud-based computing services. We will focus these services on government and education clients that require data center-level computing power.
- Disaster Recovery site for the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities
- A remote systems monitoring service has been started at the NOC
- A new training initiative has been started which provides educational opportunities to both individuals and companies. We have had 8 classes in the areas of business, project management and technology skills improvement.
- Video production provider for Preston-Osborne's Coal Education DVD
- Virtual Publication Hosting service launched in 2009 with 4 client companies
- 250+ web services clients served since 2003
- 80 websites currently hosted on our 1 gigabyte Internet connection
- 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.
- Provider of online distance learning services and hosting for the KCTCS –AMTECH program

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

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

- The 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

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 91 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 second Summit was conducted in Ft Myers, Florida in August, 2010. There were 39 chiefs, sheriffs or other executive level administrators from small, rural agencies across the country in attendance. This Summit resulted in an action plan to aid the smaller agencies in having a voice in the policy decisions being made that affect all of law enforcement. Every attendee left the session focused on working through their respective state associations to establish a committee within the organization to represent small and rural agencies. The results of this effort can be seen at [www.srtbrc.org/impact](http://www.srtbrc.org/impact).

The Summit continues to gain momentum as the attendees give presentation across the country. The National Sheriffs' Association has formed a Small Department Committee to hear and address the needs of smaller sheriff departments and the International Association of Chiefs of Police has established a subcommittee with its State Association of Chiefs of Police (SACOP) to specifically consider the information from the two Summits.

### **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 in Guilford County, North Carolina. The Aviation Technical Working Group will determine where the Sky Arrow will be stationed after hearing proposals from agencies wishing to establish an Aviation Unit. NIJ has funded the lease of a Magni M-24 Gyro-plane by The Center for evaluation and demonstration purposes. This aircraft is currently based in Somerset pending final placement with an agency.

## **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 a 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 2011 Spring Rural Institute was conducted in May 2011 in Annapolis, Maryland and was another great success. This brings the total number of graduates from the Institute to 349. To hear some of the comments from the participants of the Spring Institute go to The Center's YouTube channel by clicking [HERE](#). The next Rural Law Enforcement Technology Institute is scheduled for December, 2011.

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

**Law Enforcement Aviation:** The Aviation program flew 67 operational missions during the first nine months of 2011. This was in addition to numerous training and pilot check flights and equipment testing/evaluation flights.

**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 29,260 CDs/DVDs were distributed during the first nine months of 2011 either through direct distribution or downloaded from the SRTBRC.org website

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 nine months of 2011, SRTB-RC's Surplus Property Coordinator assisted 450 agencies with acquiring property.

SRTB-RC has also exhibited or presented at 42 state or national conferences during the first nine months of 2011.

SRTB-RC outreach efforts included 167 personal visits to agencies across the United States.

## **Homeland Security Certificate Program**

- Over 7,400 First Responders have been trained in the Homeland Security Terrorism Prevention Certificate Programs.
- 53 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 ready for review from DHS.

### 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 consisted 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. All recommendations from the SME's have been changed in the course scenarios and will be resent to DHS in May for a final desk review.

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

The IPS is currently 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. The EMP course is completed and course design documents are being developed and will be submitted to DHS for review in June 2011.

## 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.

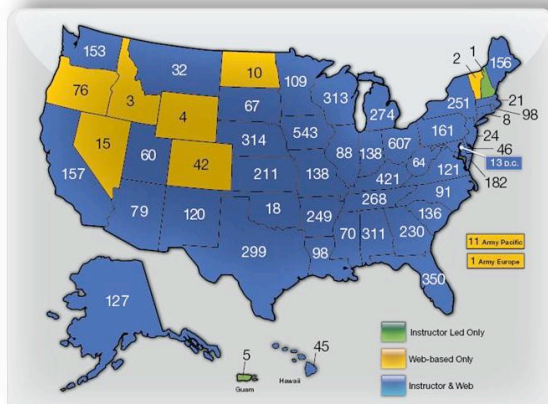
## The Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (RDPC)

- 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 as well as taking the lead in marketing and outreach for RDPC.
- Over 30 Instructor-led and web-based course in the planning and development phases.
- 17 Courses have been certified by DHS.
- 7,432 courses delivered in FY 2010
  - 50 states impacted
  - 5,026 distinct students
- 2,202 course completions occurred during the third quarter of 2011
- 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.
- Facebook "Likes" -672 total, 60 new third quarter.

### 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

CRD's Homeland Security Training Department staff support RDPC training delivery in the following states during this period:

- Reached highest volume of scheduled deliveries to date -- 115 deliveries scheduled through April 2012

# ARTS AND CULTURE

## Arts & Culture at The Center

- 5,500 students annually enjoy the performing arts through *School Time Theater*
- 16 *Center Stage*, *School Time Theater*, and *Children's Prime Time Theatre* performances were presented during September 2010 – May 2011.
  
- 44,637 individuals attended 94 theater performances this recent fiscal year
- 361,304 individuals attended 2,264 non-theater events this recent fiscal year
- 7,709 total events and performances have been hosted at The Center since its opening in 1996 including 350 theatre performances and 7,359 non-theater events.  
... *AND* 1,309,254 people have attended The Center events since its opening, including 158,542 theater attendees and 1,150,712 non-theater attendees.
  
- The 2011-2012 season schedule for both School Time Theatre and Children's Prime Time Theatre opened on September 16 with a performance in each series of *Ananse!Early in the Day*. The School Time Theatre performance had 113 in attendance from Russell and Pulaski counties. The evening Children's Prime Time Theatre performance sold 107 tickets. Both shows were produced and performed by Artistree, Inc./Wood and Strings Theatre. A preshow event was hosted by The Center with puppet-making activities for the children. The preshow dinner buffet was catered by the Somerset Community College Culinary School, a new preshow event partner for the 2011-2012 performing arts season. The preshow event was sponsored by Clear Channel Lake Cumberland and Somerset Community College Culinary School.
  
- A new marketing strategy was used this year to promote the 2011-2012 Center Stage season. The new Center Stage lineup was introduced at a live radio remote kick-off entitled *It's Showtime* with Clear Channel Lake Cumberland on September 19 from 4:00 – 6:00 PM. The kick-off was held the evening before the new season subscriptions went on sale. People were encouraged to come to The Center where refreshments were served during the event and music was provided by the **Tom Taksa Jazz Ensemble**. Season subscriptions could also be purchased by phone during the event. Approximately 30 people attended the event, which included ticket giveaways.

The 2011-2012 Center Stage season opened on October 15 with Barter Theatre's production of *Civil War Voices*, which sold 230 tickets. The preshow event was sponsored by Clear Channel Lake Cumberland and Sully's, a new 2011-2012 preshow sponsor, and included a catered dinner and free entertainment by the **Tom Taksa Trio**. Approximately 50 people attended the preshow event.

- A visual arts exhibit of paintings by local artist Peggy Sherry was installed on September 28. The exhibit is entitled *Aquascapes and More* and will remain on display through December. Ms. Sherry received the Arts & Culture award at The Center's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event on September 30.

## 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.
- The arts outreach programs with Morehead State University's Little Company, funded by the Hot Topic Foundation, were taken to schools in six counties that reached 1716 students during April.
- An arts outreach program was taken to Lone Jack School Center in Bell County on September 15. The program included a performance by Artistree, Inc./Wood and Strings Theatre of *Ananse! Early in the Day* for the entire school of 230 students in grades K-8. Additionally, three puppet construction workshops were held for 73 students in grades third, fourth and fifth. This outreach program was partially funded by a Regional Touring Grant from South Arts.