



2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT

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2009-2010

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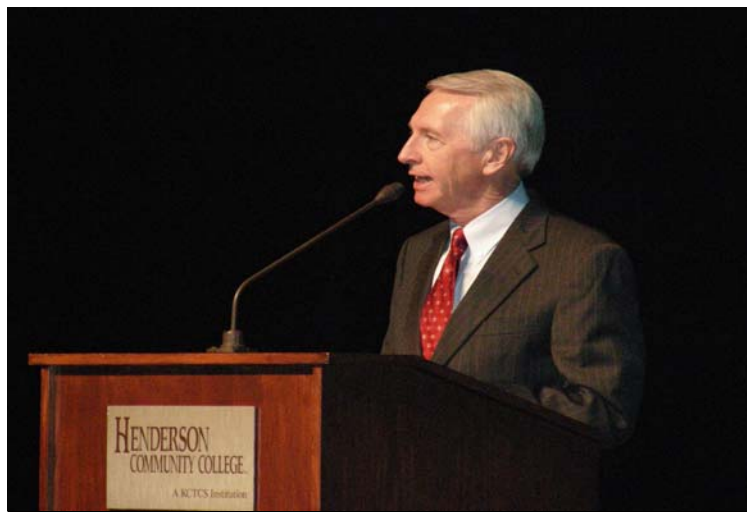
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NORTHWEST KENTUCKY RALLIES 4 EDUCATION EXCELLENCE

On March 21, Northwest Kentucky Forward held the first Rally-4-Education which was an outstanding success! The Rally inspired community advocacy groups to support all levels of education, and was for teachers, parents, and taxpayers in all four counties who are stakeholders in education.

More than 500 people attended the rally to hear Gov. Steve Beshear discuss how education can be im-



Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear spoke at the Rally 4 Education at the Henderson Fine Arts Center.

proved through community involvement, getting students prepared for college, and creating new standardized testing.

Other key speakers featured at the Rally were Kati Haycock, President of The Edu-

cation Trust in Washington, D.C., Helen Mountjoy, Secretary of the Education Workforce Development, David Adkisson, CEO and President of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, among many others.

OUR APPROACH

Business Attraction

We work to aggressively attract new primary employers to the region.

Business Retention

We work to retain primary employers, and help them to expand and grow.

Business Development

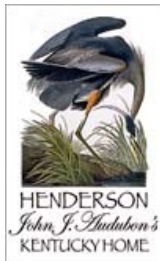
We assist entrepreneurs in the start up of new businesses and the expansion of existing small businesses.

Education Advocacy

We support & encourage the development of education excellence throughout the region in all levels of learning.

TOP INVESTORS

Visionaries



Henderson County Fiscal Court

Union County Fiscal Court

Webster County Fiscal Court

McLean County Friend

Leaders



McLean County Fiscal Court

BUSINESS RETENTION

Business Retention Activity

In the past year, the Business Retention program has accomplished many of its goals for Northwest Kentucky.

- Assisted with **4** expansions which created **77** new jobs
- Visited all **134** qualified existing businesses at least once during the year

- Held **two** Leaders' Roundtable sessions
- Held **7** continuing education programs
- Partnered with HCHS CTE to hold the first Open House for students, parents, and businesses.
- Assisted in obtaining **\$214,861** in Bluegrass State Skills training funds
- Worked with HCC and Ivy Tech to develop welding certification opportunities
- Created partnership with KAM and formed a "Workforce Challenges Committee"
- Worked with energy partners and HCHS in scheduling/coordinating the first Henderson County "Junior Coal Mine Academy"
- Helped to sponsor 7-county workshop for dislocated workers and Employability Fair with more than **400** attendees.

BUSINESSES AND SCHOOL GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER AT NWKF EVENT

Northwest Kentucky Forward, in partnership with Henderson County High School's Career and Technical Education (CTE) unit and local businesses, held an Open House titled "Getting to Know You to Grow Our Partnership."

The event was held in order to help grow the partnership between the CTE unit, local business, students and parents of HCHS students.

Representatives from the state and community



spoke at the event, including Deputy Sec. Deborah Anderson.

Students and their parents were able to meet with various businesses who actively employ individuals with the skills taught at the CTE.

Additionally, the businesses were able to learn more about the programs available at the CTE.

Finally, the school personnel were able to interact with businesses to learn how to better meet the needs of the workplace.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Northwest Kentucky Forward partners with Community Ventures Corp to provide entrepreneurs in all stages of development with assistance and training.

The Northwest Kentucky Microenterprise Loan program provides loans up to \$35,000 for start-up and existing small businesses.

CVC is a not-for-profit corporate that provides business development and home-ownership programs across the state.

CVC was again named Microlender of the Year in KY by SBA in 2008.

Here are some highlights of the past year:

- **198** Clients
- **16** micro loans

- **3** jump start loans
- **35** new start up businesses
- **75** new jobs created through counseling and loans
- **17** retention jobs through counseling and loans
- Jumpstart Classes in all **four** counties
- Sponsor for Bankers Breakfast on 504 and Micro Loans.

TOP INVESTORS

Partners



Promoters

- Alliance Resource Partners
- Brenntag Mid South
- BB&T Bank
- First Security Bank
- Henderson County Riverport
- Hendrix Electric
- Home Oil & Gas
- Integra Bank
- Park Machine Supply
- R.C. Bottling Co.
- Sacramento Deposit Bank
- Scott Industries
- Sitex Corporation
- The Gleaner
- Toyota Motor Manufacturing Inc.
- United Community Bank
- Weddle Bros.

COLONELS 2 COLLEGE



Following the Rally for Education Excellence March 21, 2009, a group of inspired Henderson County citizens began to research an opportunity to provide every Henderson County High School graduate the financial opportunity to attend Henderson Community

College.

Beginning with Class of 2013, The Colonels 2 College program will offer all Henderson County High School graduates who earn four consecutive Colonels 2 College workforce certificates up to \$1,000

www.rally4education.com

per semester for 4 semesters to attend Henderson Community College.

The Colonels 2 College program encourages students to practice valuable workforce skills, including

quality, attendance, persistence, and rigor.

To receive a workforce certificate each year, students must: achieve a yearly 2.5 GPA; demonstrate 96% attendance and punctuality; complete high school in eight consecutive semesters; and

take more than the minimum credits required to graduate.

Colonels 2 College demonstrates the area's high expectation of education excellence and community commitment.

2007-2008 Annual Report

Northwest Kentucky Forward
 1990 Barrett Court
 P.O. Box 674
 Henderson, KY 42419-0674

Phone: 270-826-7505
 Fax: 270-827-2969
 Website: www.northwestky.com



BUSINESS ATTRACTION

NWKF focuses the area’s business attraction strategy on five target sectors: Energy, Aluminum, Prepared Foods, Automotive, and Logistics.

This past year, the focus on Logistics gained additional prominence when the region was named the

Top Location for Logistics in the nation!

Chicago Consulting, a leading supply chain consultant, publishes an annual list of the most cost effective locations for logistics. The list is based on the delivery time. Northwest Kentucky, specifically Henderson, has gradually

moved up the list over the last few years. According to the group, the area is now the best location for reaching the greatest population most cost effectively.

As the economy continues to improve, the area’s ranking will attract more attention in the Logistics industry.

NWKF ASSISTS WITH INCENTIVES FOR A NEW KENTUCKY INITIATIVE

NWKF has the privilege to serve on a task force that reviewed Kentucky’s current incentive programs. Recommendations regarding changes, enhancements, and new program were presented to Gov. Beshear.

The Governor unveiled a bill that encompassed nearly all of these suggestions and made it a top priority.

The bill was finally passed during the Summer Special Session.

Highlights from a

Northwest Kentucky Forward perspective:

- Consolidation of existing tax credit incentives into one program with flexible terms
 - o 10-job Minimum
 - o \$100,000 Minimum Investment
 - o Wage Rate 150% federal minimum
 - o Eligible for both wage assessment and income tax credit.
- Amend Kentucky Reinvestment Act to assist existing business
 - o Upgrade facility
 - o 85% Retention of Jobs
 - o \$2.5 million Minimum Investment
- o Company recovers up to 50% equipment cost and 100% training cost
- o Income Tax Credit
- Amend Kentucky Enterprise Initiative Act (KEIA)—electronic processing equipment becomes eligible for sales tax reimbursement.
- Sales Tax Reimbursement for Computers and Communication Systems—\$100 Million minimum investment
- Small Business Income Tax Credit
- Film and Theater Production Tax Credits
- RR Access to Industrial Road Access Fund