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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THREE-STATE SUMMIT TO ADDRESS
REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Evansville, IN (May 14, 2008) – Business and government leaders from Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky will convene in Evansville on November 20 and 21, 2008 to study the new economic model of future growth. The *2008 Regional Economic Summit* will feature nationally-recognized business experts and economists who will discuss the current economic climate and realities facing a 26-county region, as well as outline the steps necessary for prosperity, wealth creation, and economic vitality in the 21st Century.

“Each community in our three-state region faces the same economic realities,” said Kevin Sheilley, President & CEO of Northwest Kentucky Forward, a public-private economic development partnership that serves Henderson, McLean, Union and Webster counties. “We share a common workforce and have identical infrastructure challenges, and we believe it is possible to develop solutions which can be replicated in each state.”

Kicking off the summit is Rich Karlgaard, publisher of *Forbes* – the world’s most popular business and financial magazine. Karlgaard writes *Digital Rules*, a regular *Forbes* column, which discusses technology, entrepreneurship, regional and economic development, and the future of business and work. He frequently guests on the Fox News Channel’s *Forbes on Fox* and has written a *Wall Street Journal* best seller – *Life 2.0 How People Across America Are Transforming Their Lives by Finding the Where of Their Happiness*.



University economists from each state led by Dr. Mohamed Khayum, Dean of the College of Business at the University of Southern Indiana, are collaborating to develop a regional economic model which will establish the foundation where opportunities for the 26-county region will be identified.

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“Evidence suggests that the significance of previous drivers of economic growth such as natural resources and physical capital is being replaced by human creativity and that creativity propels economic growth,” stated Dr. Khayum.

Attendees will have the opportunity during the two-day summit to participate in general and break-out sessions dealing with entrepreneurialism, regional collaboration, building stronger economic development strategies, and alignment to the emerging world economy. The final summit agenda is being developed in cooperation with regional advisory councils from each state.

Founding sponsors for the *2008 Regional Economic Summit* are Old National Bank and Regency Properties. Lead sponsors of the event are the Richland County Development Corporation (IL), Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation (KY), Northwest Kentucky Forward (KY), Chamber of Commerce of Southwest Indiana (IN), and the Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana (IN).

For registration and more information about the *2008 Regional Economic Summit* log onto www.regionaleconomicsummit.com or call 812-463-6102. You may also email Shannon Hazelwood, event administrator, at shazelwood@regency-prop.com, or contact Sandra Hadley, event planner with *planning...forever* events, at saundra@planningforever.com or 812-455-6836.

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Counties comprising the 26-County Economic Region

Illinois

Edwards, Illinois
Gallatin, Illinois
Lawrence, Illinois
Richland, Illinois
Wabash, Illinois
White, Illinois

Indiana

Daviess, Indiana
Dubois, Indiana
Gibson, Indiana
Knox, Indiana
Martin, Indiana
Pike, Indiana
Perry, Indiana
Posey, Indiana
Spencer, Indiana
Vanderburgh, Indiana
Warrick, Indiana

Kentucky

Daviess, Kentucky
Hancock, Kentucky
Henderson, Kentucky
Hopkins, Kentucky
McLean, Kentucky
Muhlenburg, Kentucky
Ohio, Kentucky
Union, Kentucky
Webster, Kentucky