



# Team Taylor County

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
OUR TEAM. YOUR VISION. UNCOMMON OPPORTUNITIES.

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## Bluegrass South Regional Economic Development Coalition Meets with Officials in Frankfort



Left to Right: Mike Mangeot (President and CEO of the Kentucky Association for Economic Development); Secretary Larry Hayes (Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet); Hal Goode (Washington County Economic Development); Nathan Mick (Garrard County Economic Development); Drew Dennis (Mercer County Economic Development); Representative Lonnie Napier (District 36); Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear; Arlen Sanders (Lincoln County Economic Development); Jody Lassiter (Boyle County Economic Development); Ron McMahan (Cville-Taylor County Economic Development); Tom Lund (Marion County Economic Development). Not pictured: George Leamon (Anderson County Economic Development); Blaine Staat (Casey County Economic Development).

*By Nathan Mick*

The Bluegrass South Regional Economic Development Coalition met in Frankfort, KY on Tuesday, March 16 with Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear, Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet Secretary Larry Hayes, Kentucky Association for Economic Development President/CEO Mike Mangeot, Washington County Judge/Executive John Settles, Senator Julian Carroll, Representative Lonnie Napier, Representative Kent Stevens, Representative Terry Mills and Representative Mike Harmon.

The purpose of this meeting was to introduce officials to Bluegrass South, provide economic and community development updates from Bluegrass South, cultivate deeper relationships between Bluegrass South members and officials representing the region, and identify ways Bluegrass South can help support economic development work being done in Frankfort.

The Bluegrass South Regional Economic Development Coalition is a regional initiative among the economic

development professionals in nine Central Kentucky counties: Anderson, Boyle, Casey, Garrard, Lincoln, Marion, Mercer, Taylor, and Washington. Bluegrass South is a region of vibrant, progressive communities in the Kentucky heartland strategically positioned between the Louisville and Lexington metro areas with business development assets and advantages that are easily accessible via four major highway corridors (KY 55, US 127, US 150, and US 27) to the Bluegrass Parkway and Interstates 64, 65, and 75.

## Vince Gill Concert Raises \$40,000 for CU Athletics

By Chris Megginson / *Campbellsville University Sports Information*

We are deeply honored to have had a popular entertainer like Vince Gill give of his time and talent to support our 'More Than a Game' athletic fundraising effort," said Rusty Hollingsworth, CU director of athletics. "This was a great night for Campbellsville University and the student-athletes who will benefit from his generosity."

More than \$40,000 was raised to help fund the addition of synthetic turf and lights to Campbellsville's football field and lights at the baseball stadium.

Gill, who holds numerous charity events each year, is familiar with sports fundraising efforts, as an avid golfer and also a friend to Belmont University basketball.

"I'm a sports nut," Gill said.

"Sometimes it takes some of the athletic programs to help put the school on the map."

But overall, it's about giving and helping provide a better future for today's youth that helped bring Gill to Campbellsville.

The journey to CU began in California back in October, when golfing buddy Steve Finley, nephew of Campbellsville football patriarch Ron Finley, asked Gill if he'd be willing to do a benefit concert.

Gill jumped at the idea.

I love my friends, and I tell you, nine times out of 10 when you do some kind of a charitable thing, you're reacting to someone else's passion. It just makes sense to help somebody else out," Gill said. "Plus, I've always had a soft spot in my heart for Kentucky. When I moved away from home at 18, this was my home. I really love the state."

Finley, while connected to CU's athletic history, said he asked the favor more



for CU's future athletes than its past ties – mainly freshman football player Westley Cadena, who Finley has mentored since age 6. "I'm doing this, because the school took a chance on Westley," Finley said. To Finley, Gill was a natural pick to ask the favor.

"He's the most giving of anybody I know in Nashville on the entertainment side," Finley said. "The people will love him in Campbellsville. I've seen him in every venue, from 30 to 40 in a small room to 10,000 people. This was a nice venue tonight."

Prior to the concert, Gill was the dinner guest of Campbellsville President Dr. Michael V. Carter at the Betty Dobbins Heilman House, the president's home, on campus.

"We were thrilled to have Vince Gill come to Campbellsville University in support of our 'More Than a Game' campaign. His performance was terrific and his love to help others comes through with such sincerity," Carter said. "We feel honored that he cares so deeply about helping young people grow and mature through Christian higher education."

The concert was organized and directed through the Campbellsville University Office of Development and the Big Maroon Club.

"It is a rare opportunity to have a person of Vince Gill's stature at Campbellsville University," Chuck Vaughn, director of the Big Maroon Club, said.

"Not only is Vince a Hall of Fame country music artist but he also has a generous heart. He is well known for his humanitarian spirit and our 'More Than a Game' campaign is a beneficiary. This is just one more way that Vince Gill is giving back to help others," Vaughn said.

"Also, a special thanks goes out to Steve Finley for his help in arranging for Vince to perform."

During that same October dinner with Gill, Finley helped organize Campbellsville's next fundraising effort - a dinner and auction with NFL Hall of Fame linebacker Dick Butkus. Butkus will be the guest of Campbellsville University as keynote speaker at a dinner and auction.

## Ron McMahan Addresses Chamber of Commerce March Luncheon

*By Pat Keefe, Publisher, CKNJ*

Team Taylor County Economic Development Authority Executive Director, Ron McMahan says Taylor County has a lot going for it even though we are in a recession.

McMahan was the March 11 guest speaker at the monthly Campbellsville/Taylor County Chamber of Commerce luncheon at Campbellsville Christian Church. Downtown Campbellsville sponsored the lunch attended by 105 Chamber members and guests.

McMahan pointed out Taylor County is pretty much average these days when it comes to unemployment. The United States is experiencing a twenty-six year high. The Kentucky unemployment rate in December was 10.4% while Taylor County was at 10.3%. Some in our labor market area are as high as 14.5%. Our closest neighbors adjacent to us are all higher than Taylor County. Only three counties in Kentucky were below 8%.

With the assistance of federal officials Team Taylor County has secured stimulus funds and federal grants that are bringing over \$1.7 million into our county for skills upgrade training for the unemployed and the underemployed.

“We are home to Taylor Regional Hospital with 661 team members of which 42.6% are non Taylor County residents while 53% of admissions are from outside the county – talk about a regional employer drawing from outside the community! TRH paid \$28,496,390 in salaries, wages and benefits with a total economic impact of over \$35 million. Capital expenditures during 2009 were over \$1.98 million and several million more are planned for the future.

Campbellsville University has an economic impact of \$90 million with 330 employees. New capital expenditures for 2010 are over \$3 million.

Parker-Kalon added a new warehouse with 10 employees in a consoli-

dation from an out of state location.

Murakami and Upstream have recently added jobs. Cox Shavings brought back 15 workers and a new venture. Cox Dimension Lumber plans to add 10 jobs soon.

Infac continues to progress well with an expansion in 2009 producing 20 new jobs and \$530,000 in new capital expenditures. Amazon sales continue to grow with several million dollars in new capital investment every year.

McMahan concluded “We are continuing to seek federal and state funds for workforce development and dislocated worker training. An educated workforce, with technical skills to meet the employer’s needs is crucial for moving us forward. We need to be prepared for the competitive job market that will come. The bottom line is even in these challenging economic times this community is strong.”

## Congressman Brett Guthrie holds Workforce Investment Act Forum

Kentucky Congressman Brett Guthrie, R-2nd District, held a meeting at Campbellsville University’s Technology Training Center Friday, Jan. 15, to discuss plans for improving the Workforce Investment Act and get feedback from area workforce training representatives in attendance at the meeting.

*Campbellsville University Photo by Ashley Zsedenyi*



# Campbellsville University Technology Training Center Training Opportunities

By Carol Sullivan, Director

Over \$2 million in training opportunities are available at Campbellsville University Technology Training Center through a variety of funding sources. Opportunities include:

*Heartland Economic Recovery Project* (HERP) funding through Cumberland Workforce Investment Area includes training in – motor controls, CompTIA A+, Network+, State Registered Nurse Aide (SRNA), and Microsoft Office 2007 Applications (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and QuickBooks).

*Job Opportunities and Business Services* (JOBS) funding through Lake Cumberland Community Action Agency includes training in – State Registered Nurse Aide (SRNA), Office Technology, Hospitality, CompTIA A+, Network+, and Basic Web Page Design.

*Retool Today's Workforce for Tomorrow's*

*Future* funding through Team Taylor County earmark grant from U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration sponsored by Congressman Brett Guthrie includes training in – Lean Six Sigma Certification, Programmable Logic Control (PLC), Workplace Health and Safety Certificate, and Workplace Skills Certificate.

*Distance Learning Opportunities* funding through Team Taylor County earmark grant from U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration sponsored by Senator Jim Bunning includes healthcare training opportunities via teleconferencing.

*Helping Individuals Grow in Healthcare* (HIGH) through Cumberland and Lincoln Trail Workforce Investment Areas including training in – phlebotomy, clinical medical assisting, and medical transcription.

Campbellsville University Technology Training Center is a partnership with city and county governments, local schools districts and Team Taylor County. Their purpose is to provide a technically skilled workforce by increasing the number of skilled workers for technology-driven occupations, supporting successful entrepreneurs and providing specialized training as needed for area industry. They serve as a hub for technology related resources for the industrial and residential communities in south central Kentucky.

For more information about Campbellsville University Technology Training Center programs contact Carol Sullivan [csullivan@cuttc.com](mailto:csullivan@cuttc.com) or 270-789-5392.

## SKED Offers New Low-Interest Loan Program

SKED is a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Certified Development Company (CDC) partnering with the SBA to provide small business financing throughout the state of Kentucky.

Small business owners thinking of purchasing or renovating commercial

real estate or purchasing equipment to grow their business should consider the SBA's 504 Loan Program. The 504 loan provides small businesses access to the same type of low cost, long-term, fixed-rate financing enjoyed by larger firms. The 20-year fixed interest is currently 5.56% (effective February 2010).

Contact Michael Bush, SKED's Director of Lending, for more information, (606) 677-6100 or at: [mbush@centertech.com](mailto:mbush@centertech.com)

Learn more about SKED's SBA 504 Loan Program by visiting: [www.southeastkentucky.com/loan.php](http://www.southeastkentucky.com/loan.php).

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