



Team Taylor County

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

OUR TEAM. YOUR VISION. UNCOMMON OPPORTUNITIES.

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CU Economic Impact on Taylor County Over \$90 Million

By Joan C. McKinney, CU news and publications coordinator

Campbellsville University has a total economic impact from its operations of \$90 million in Taylor County and total local tax revenues generated by CU operations of almost \$1 million according to a new study recently completed by Younger and Associates of Jackson, Tenn.

The new study shows CU supports a total of 1,403 jobs by all related Campbellsville University operations.

The growth of economic impact from 2007 is up 18 percent from the 2007 amount of \$76.1 million.

Dr. Michael V. Carter, president of CU, said, "As Campbellsville University moves forward in her second century of providing quality Christian higher education in this community and region, we are pleased to announce the results of an economic impact study recently completed by Younger and Associates of Jackson, Tenn."

"The study reveals that CU has a total economic impact from its operations of \$90 million. This is a measure of the total number of dollars that flow through the Taylor County economy because of the operations of Campbellsville University."

Carter explained that multiple activities generate Campbellsville University's

impact on the economy. These include: university operations of payroll, purchases and capital investments; university contractors of food services and other providers of services on campus; university events, consisting of special events housed, sponsored or coordinated by the university that generate visitor spending; and student spending that includes purchases made by students off campus.

The total number of jobs in the local economy supported by CU operations is 1,403. This includes 397 CU employees; there are an additional 1,066 indirect jobs that are jobs that exist throughout the local economy because of the various activities of Campbellsville University.

The total for direct employment at CU in salaries, wages and benefits is \$16,811,768 up from \$13,863,725 in 2007 with the total for all jobs at \$42,584,339, making the total impact of \$90,033,155.

A total of almost \$1 million (\$983,805) is received as local tax revenues from Campbellsville University to Campbellsville and Taylor County.

Local tax revenues include the direct city school utility tax and payroll taxes paid by CU employees plus the payroll and property tax revenues generated indirectly by employee spending, student

spending and capital investments. Property taxes include amounts generated by CU economic impact for local city and county governments, city and county schools and other local taxing districts. These calculations, based on a conservative econometric model, do not include the amounts that CU pays for consumption of water, sewer, electricity and natural gas.

The four-year average of capital spending impact for building and site work and equipment purchase and set-up is \$7,114,601.

Each year, the staff, students, contractors, service providers and other vendors of Campbellsville University spend over \$33,083,300 million with local businesses.

The total, \$33,083,300, is after savings and taxes of \$9.5 million, which benefits local government operations and financial institutions, Carter said.

The \$33 million includes the following businesses: transportation (vehicle, gas and maintenance), housing/shelter, personal insurance, utilities, groceries, healthcare, restaurants, entertainment, apparel, charity, household furnishings/equipment, housekeeping supplies/services, miscellaneous, education, personal care products/services and reading.

Ragner Manufacturing, LLC Receives State Incentives For New Facility

According to the September 7, 2009 edition of the Central Kentucky News-Journal, Ragner Manufacturing, LLC is expected to be manufacturing its patented MicroHose by early next year, creating 125 new jobs. The 6-foot MicroHose expands to 30 feet through water pressure. A 10-foot hose will

expand to 50 feet. Job fairs and hiring are expected to begin soon. Work on their new facility located on Industrial Drive is underway.

The project was approved by the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority (KEDFA) under Kentucky's new incentive program, the

Kentucky Business Investment (KBI) Program. KEDFA preliminarily approved their parent company, Ragner Manufacturing, LLC, for up to \$3,000,000 in tax incentives which can be earned over a 15-year period through corporate income tax credits and wage assessments.

Heartland Parkway Leadership Committee Meeting



The Heartland Parkway Leadership Committee met in the Chowning Executive Dining Room at Campbellsville University for the purpose of discussing and reviewing maps on the Kentucky Highway 55 Stage Two Conceptual Alternatives. Pictured looking over the maps are, from left facing the camera: Clem Haskins, Team Taylor County Executive Director Ron McMahan, Columbia-Adair County Economic Development Authority Executive Director Sue Stivers, Columbia Mayor Pat Bell, KYTC District 4 Project Manager John Moore, KYTC District 4 P. E. Patty Dunaway and Lebanon Mayor Gary Crenshaw. The next public meetings will be November 10 in Adair County and November 17 in Taylor County. For locations and times on the meetings or for more information, contact KYTC District 4 at 270-766-5066.

Executive Director's Report

According to the state Office of Employment Training, the August 2009 unemployment rate for Taylor County is 10.6%. The U.S. rate is 9.6% and the Kentucky rate is 10.8%. Taylor County has the lowest unemployment rate in our labor market area, which consists of Adair County (10.8%), Casey County (10.7%), Green County (12.5%), Larue County (11.3%), Marion County (13.5%), Metcalfe County (15.8%), Russell County (11.0%) and Washington (13.3%).

While some leading economic indica-

tors are suggesting the nation is heading out of the worst recession in decades, experts are still wondering when the job market will improve. The unemployment rate is a lagging economic indicator. Employers routinely work current employees more before calling former employees back to work. This has caused a very slow recovery in the job market.

In September, the Federal Reserve Bank predicted the U.S. unemployment rate will continue to climb in the first quarter of 2010 before declining gradu-

ally later in the year.

The Kentucky Office of Employment Training, reports similar predictions for 2010. They are forecasting the Kentucky's unemployment rate to likely rise in the next few months as employers increase work of current employees before hiring.

Although Kentucky is still feeling the economic pain, hopefully, as some forecasters are predicting, we are headed out of the recession and the U.S. economy will return to solid growth in 2010.

Frost-Arnett Call Center Celebrates 10-year Anniversary

In December of 1998, a decision was made by Frost-Arnett to seek a site to develop a regional/national call center to meet the needs of a growing client base. The requirements were simple; find a community that had an ample supply of qualified labor and a community that fit their core values. The search eventually led to Campbellsville, Kentucky.

In March of 1999, Frost-Arnett began in earnest to discuss with city and county leaders the possibilities of opening a regional call center in Campbellsville. A job fair was held to gauge the

quality of the workforce. On a Saturday in April of 1999, more than 1,200 people attended the fair between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Their questions were answered.

On November 15, 1999, the doors of a new regional call center were opened with 30 employees. Today, the office is staffed with 82 full-time employees including several who have been with the office since its inception. “Our workforce is definitely our strength. The team here is hard-working, dedicated and friendly,” said James Thomas, vice president and office manager.

“Because so many of the team members are from the Campbellsville area, the office has roots and that makes us unique.”

In the future, Thomas said his goal is to grow the Campbellsville operation to more than 100 employees and to continue to develop new clients.

The Campbellsville location has been featured in *Fast Company* magazine and in the *Louisville Courier Journal*, the *Lexington Herald Leader* and *USA Today*.

Bluegrass South Coalition hosts Consultant Luncheon at Maker's Mark Distillery



Bluegrass South Coalition, which Team Taylor County is a partner, recently held their first recruiting event at Marker s Mark Distillery in Loretto. Consultants and developers from the Louisville area were in attendance at this event to unveil the Bluegrass South Coalition's presentation explained the 9-county region of vibrant, progressive communities in Central Kentucky with

business development assets and advantages that are easily accessible via 4 major highway corridors (KY 55, US 127, US 150, and US 27) to either the Louisville or Lexington metropolitan areas.

The Bluegrass South Coalition also gave those in attendance a look at the combined workforce numbers:

Region Population: 187,317
 Labor Market Area: 31 counties
 LMA Population: 1,261,947
 Civilian Labor Force: 643,949
 Total Available Labor: 47,967

(Please note that Total Available Labor does NOT yet reflect 2009 increases in unemployment!)

Source: Economic Development Information System (EDIS), Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development

Up next, the Bluegrass Coalition will be meeting with the Economic Development Cabinet and plan a meeting with their respective community's leadership to discuss and answer questions pertaining to House Bill 3. Both of these meetings are scheduled for November.

Heartland Parkway Foundation Receives Update From U.S. Rep. Brett Guthrie

By Linda Waggener, CU marketing and media relations coordinator

United States Representative Brett Guthrie, second district of Kentucky, gave a progress report to the Heartland Parkway Foundation board of directors in Lebanon on Sept. 2.

He shared news of pending reauthorization of the federal highway bill currently under consideration by the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, of which he is a member, and affirmed that this bill contains the necessary funding for the next steps of the major road project spanning Adair, Taylor, Marion and Washington counties.

Guthrie said, "The transportation bill is a massive five-year authorization totaling around \$456 billion, so there may be no specifics soon, but the Heartland Parkway is a very important north-south corridor that I remain committed to."

Working with Congressman Ed Whitfield, Guthrie is supporting three proposals for additional funding to be included in the bill once it's approved. These are:

- funding for the engineering design on the Columbia to Campbellsville section of the parkway;
- funding for the engineering design on the Campbellsville Bypass;
- funding for the preliminary engineering and environmental studies on the 40 mile section running from Sportsman Lake Road near Campbellsville to the Bluegrass Parkway through Lebanon and Springfield.

The Heartland Parkway will provide relief to both I-65 and I-75, serve as a connector to I-64 to the north, and will also connect with the future I-66 route along the Louie B. Nunn Cumberland Parkway, facilitating economic development and tourism.

Guthrie expressed his continuing strong support of the project, commending the Heartland Parkway Foundation Board of Directors for the regional effort to build support for the project.

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's John Moore, branch manager for project development of District Four in Elizabethtown, gave an update on the ongoing preliminary engineering and environmental study on the Columbia-Campbellsville segment and Campbellsville Bypass. He said that additional public meetings are planned in the fall.

The Heartland Parkway is a project that was started in 2000-01 with the support of Congressman Ron Lewis, R-Ky., and the board's mission is to educate the public on the importance of the construction of a four-lane highway along the Kentucky 555/55 corridor starting at the Martha Layne Collins Bluegrass Parkway north of Springfield, Ky., to the Louie B. Nunn Cumberland Parkway at Columbia, Ky.

Early discussions spotlighting the need for the connecting corridor came out of the Team Taylor County reorganization after Fruit of the Loom left the county with 29 percent unemployment.

Heartland Parkway Foundation chairman John Chowning, Campbellsville University's vice president for church and external relations and executive assistant to the president, has served in a position of leadership since its inception.

Chowning said, "The Heartland Parkway Foundation Inc. was established to sustain and build long-term support for the project. The meeting further evidences regional unity and commitment



of the four counties to make this project a reality in the future.

"We very much appreciate the ongoing support of U.S. Representative Guthrie in taking the lead in Washington on this project, as well as the support of other members of the congressional delegation."

He said support of our local officials and state legislators is important as we continue to work to educate the public and officials on the importance of the Heartland Parkway.

Dr. William Huston, president of St. Catharine College in Springfield, said, "I have seen similar dreams for development fail because of lack of leadership." He commended Chowning and fellow board members for regularly bringing together leaders from each county to meet with officials so that interest and involvement remain constant.

Both State Rep. Jimmie Higdon of Lebanon and State Rep. Bam Carney of Campbellsville spoke briefly to add their continuing support.

Cumberlands Workforce Investment Area Receives Grant- Funds Will Be Used to Train Job Seekers and Aid Employers in the Region

By Jay Blanton, Governor's Office

FRANKFORT, Ky. Job seekers in the Cumberlands Workforce Investment Area will have an opportunity to get valuable training thanks to a \$500,000 grant provided by Gov. Steve Beshear's Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Statewide Reserve funds, which received stimulus dollars through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The grant will pay for training for unemployed and underemployed workers in the areas of computer networking, Microsoft applications and manufacturing technology. The grant will be administered by the Campbellsville-Taylor County Economic Development Authority.

"By preparing our workforce for high

tech, in demand jobs, Kentucky will provide more incentives for businesses to locate here," said Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Secretary Helen Mountjoy.

"The ability to offer unemployed Kentuckians invaluable training in high-demand fields will help put them back to work sooner and on a better path to long term financial security."

The grant will be based on tuition per participant, and could help as many as 315 people. Tuition includes instruction, books and supplies for each training opportunity.

Areas of training available through the grant include the following:

Programmable and Logic Controls (PLC) training designed to familiarize the trainee with troubleshooting as-

pects of PLC, Motor Controls, Comp TIA A+, Network+, State Registered Nurse Aide (SRNA), Microsoft Office 2007, Internet and Computer Core Certification (IC3) and Case Management and EKOS.

A total of 5,081 unemployed people reside in the Cumberlands labor market area. Unemployed or dislocated workers will be given priority placement for the training with underemployed workers given secondary placement in the training.

WIA funds are federal dollars from the U.S. Department of Labor. They are administered by the Kentucky Department of Workforce Investment's Office of Employment and Training in the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.

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Amazon.com Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary in Campbellsville, KY

Amazon.com celebrated their 10 year anniversary by hosting a dinner and tours of the facility for community leaders and employees and their families.

Amazon.com opened their facility in

Campbellsville on September 26, 1999.

They are now Taylor County's largest employer with over 1,100 full-time employees and are one of our top corporate citizens.

The distribution center contains enough items to cover 16 football fields and has over 12 miles of conveyors.

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