



Boone, Kenton and Campbell County Leaders Join Statewide Technology Effort

30 Local Leaders Discuss Ways to Create Jobs, Improve Quality of Life

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Burlington, Ky. – Ever think about finishing that college degree? Wish you could visit with the grandkids living far away? How about being able to work from home?

It's possible to accomplish all these things, and more, using high-speed Internet. Lightning-fast service enables people to watch video, have a two-way phone conversation or send large data files without leaving their home or office.

A volunteer committee is working to make more services like this available locally. Team members from the Tri-County Economic Development Agency and Vision 2015 recently met with Sage Cutler, ConnectKentucky project manager, to discuss ways to ensure that every home, school, organization and business in the county has access to high-speed Internet, also called broadband.

Various plans for economic development are currently underway in the northern Kentucky region with the Vision 2015 initiative (www.vision2015.org) initiated by the Tri-County Economic Development Agency. ConnectKentucky will be partnering with this leadership group in their ongoing work and progress, as part of Kentucky's plan to deliver statewide broadband access by 2007.

ConnectKentucky is a non-profit group that believes technology can help Kentucky remain the place of choice to live, work and raise a family. Ultimately, the goal of *Kentucky's Prescription for Innovation* is to increase the number of high-tech companies and jobs in the Commonwealth.

More than 30 local leaders are already involved in the project. Volunteers represent the following areas:

- Business and industry
- Healthcare
- Libraries
- K-12 education
- Higher education
- Community-based organizations
- Government
- Agriculture
- Tourism, recreation and parks

Boone County Judge Executive Gary Moore said, "Kentucky has missed out on too many opportunities because we lacked the right technology. We are changing that by taking steps to put our county ahead of the curve."

Campbell County Judge Executive Steve Pendery said that children today understand the importance of the Internet. "We want them to grow up with all the advantages that technology offers. We also want to

make it possible for future generations to stay here, instead of having to leave for jobs elsewhere,” he said.

Kenton County Judge Executive Ralph Drees said, “Technology can improve health care, education, agriculture and business. Everything we do now, we can do better.”

Kentucky once lagged behind when it came to technology, but the Commonwealth has now become a technology leader. Broadband coverage has increased from 60 percent of households in 2003 to 82 percent of households in 2006. Home computer ownership has increased by 17 percent, and more than 100 counties are actively engaged in the eCommunity Leadership Team process.

Broadband promises to enhance the economy and quality of life in Kentucky. For example, doctors can remotely monitor patients with chronic illnesses, working parents can complete their college degrees by attending classes online and tourists can make online reservations.

Many companies cite the availability of broadband as essential to starting or expanding their operations. The Internet also allows small businesses, even those based in remote locations, to compete worldwide.

For more information about the project, please contact ConnectKentucky Project Manager Sage Cutler at 270-799-0874 or scutler@connectky.org.

Initial meeting participants included:

Steve Pendery	Campbell County
Gary Moore	Boone County
Ralph Drees	Kenton County
Anthony Strong	Campbell County Schools
Chuck Heilman	Campbell County Planning and Zoning
Mark Spicer	Boone County
James N. Staverman	Boone County
Dan Allen	UK Extension Service (Kenton)
Don Sorrell	UK Extension Service (Campbell)
Jerry Brown	UK Extension Service (Boone)
Candace Klein	Vision 2015 /Project Lily Pad
Barb Schempf	CVG Airport
Patricia Wingo	City of Florence
Colin Campbell	City of Florence
Diane Whalen	City of Florence
Cindy Brown	Boone County Public Library
Bill Smith	Boone County Coop. Extension
Kevin McCormick	Newport Schools
Jeff Earlywine	Boone County
Gail Melvin	City of Covington
Greg Deimling	NKU – Office of Economic Initiative
Kimberly Luse	Northern Kentucky University
Josh Wice	Campbell County Fiscal Court
Brett Tuschman	Campbell County Fiscal Court
Ed Hughes	Gateway Community & Technical College
Lee Scheben	Boone County Library Board
Phil Trzop	Boone County Water

About ConnectKentucky:

Recently named as the nation’s top innovator in economic development by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, ConnectKentucky is leading the way into a new economy for Kentuckians. As an independent technology-based economic development organization, ConnectKentucky works with businesses, government entities and universities to accelerate technology in the Commonwealth. For more information, visit www.connectkentucky.org.

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