Annual State Technology Event Comes to Bowling Green

ConnectKentucky's 8th Tech Day in Kentucky hosted in partnership with Western Kentucky University, Office of Research

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Bowling Green, KY: Today, ConnectKentucky in partnership with Western Kentucky University, Office of Research, hosted the 8th Tech Day in Kentucky, an annual event that assembles the technology leaders from across the Commonwealth to discuss the latest technology advancements and opportunities in Kentucky. Prominent state technology advocates gather to share their input on technology use and provide updates on broadband initiatives at the local, state, and national level.

This year's theme is *Maximizing Workforce & Economic Development Thru Technology*, which focused on the impact of broadband technologies on workforce development and the indispensable role technology plays in any economic development effort.

"For Kentucky to prosper and thrive in the 21st century, it is essential that our economic and workforce development delivery systems fully embrace technology," said René True, ConnectKentucky executive director. "Broadband technologies embedded in economic and workforce development systems will fully enable Kentucky citizens and business to effectively compete in the global economy."

Tech Day provides a platform for technology leaders to share and promote the benefits of broadband technology in our government, schools, non-profits, libraries, businesses, communities, and homes. This year's event included updates regarding the Next Generation Kentucky Information Highway, Digital Works – Kentucky, distance learning in post-secondary education, as well as economic development efforts in in the public and private sectors.

In addition to the technology dialogue, ConnectKentucky presented the 2015 Tech Day Awards sponsored by AT&T Kentucky. The awards recognize businesses, students, educational institutions, non-profits, and government agencies that are making a difference in advancing broadband technologies in the Commonwealth by exhibiting successful examples of improving broadband access, adoption, and use. This year's recipients include:

- Leadership in Technology Award – Kentucky Educational Television (KET)
- Business Technology Award – Mill Creek Software, LLC
- Post-Secondary Educational Institution Technology Award – Midway College
- Secondary Educational Institution Technology Award (Tie) – The Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics & Science in Kentucky and LaRue County Public Schools
- Post-Secondary Student Technology Award – William Roach-Barrette, Morehead State University
- Secondary Student Technology Award – Vir D. Patel, The Gatton Academy

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About ConnectKentucky: ConnectKentucky is leading the way into a new economy for Kentuckians. As an independent technology-based economic development organization, ConnectKentucky works to ensure that Kentucky remains the place of choice to live, work, and raise a family. ConnectKentucky is an alliance of technology-minded businesses, government entities, and universities working together to accelerate technology in the Commonwealth. For more information: www.connectkentucky.org.