
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...

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2008 Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award recipients are announced

Eastern Kentucky University's College of Business and Technology, Kentucky Highlands Investment Corp. and The Center for Rural Development presented the 2008 Excellence in Entrepreneurship Awards (EIEA) on Monday, Sept. 8, during a luncheon program at The Center's headquarters in Somerset.

Dr. Doug Whitlock, president of Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, served as program emcee and Kenneth Robinson, deputy commissioner for Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, Department of Existing Business Development, delivered the keynote address.

The annual awards program was established in 2001 to honor excellence in entrepreneurship throughout Southern and Eastern Kentucky. Awards were presented in four categories – For-Profit Business, For-Profit Small Business, Start-Up Business and Non-Profit Business - and were determined by the economic success of the enterprise, contributions to the community, job creation and operational achievement as measured by innovative business practices, superior safety achievement and superior technology.

Recipients and recognized finalists in the four business categories are:

For-Profit Business: Award recipient: Terry E. Forcht, founder/president/CEO, Forcht Group of Kentucky, Corbin, Ky.

Finalists: Richard R. Rednour II, owner/president, Rednour Properties, LLC, Clay City, Ky., and Shannon Wright and Kendall Wright, owners, Wright Concrete & Construction Inc., Dorton, Ky.

For-Profit Small Business: Award recipient: Steve Taylor, president, EST Tool & Machine Inc., Brodhead, Ky.

Finalists: Jerry W. Rice, owner, Panco Wood Shop, Oneida, Ky., and Charlie Pinson, president/owner, Charlie Pinson Insurance, Pikeville, Ky.

Start-Up Business: Award recipients: Bryan Floyd and Scott Floyd, owners, Floyd Industries, LLC, Liberty, Ky.

Finalists: Brant Poore, president, and Raymond Sears, vice president, Information Capture Solutions, LLC, Williamsburg, Ky., and Cindy and Norm Kelly, owners, EZ Care, LLC, Richmond, Ky.

Not-For-Profit Entity: Award recipient: Debbie Long, executive director, God's Food Pantry of Pulaski County, Somerset, Ky.

Finalists: Stephanie Richards, artistic director, Artists Collaborative Theater, Elkhorn City, Ky., and Lonnie Cowan, executive director of Chronic Pain Support Group Inc., with offices in Clark, Jessamine, Bourbon, Laurel, Boyle, Montgomery, Madison and Taylor counties.

EKU student Greg Compton and business advisor professor Maurice Reid, recipients of the Excellence in Entrepreneurship Collegiate Business Concept Challenge, and the first-place winning team of the 2008 Entrepreneurial Leadership Institute (ELI) Business

Concept competition on the high school level also were honored at the awards program. ELL team members Katie Parks and Eric Bird, both of Somerset; Emily Coleman, Pikeville; and Tyler Nickell of Morehead were recognized for their business idea, which included a proposal for a pediatric cancer center in Southern Kentucky. Each of the high school students is eligible to receive a Presidential Scholarship to attend Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond.

Sponsoring partners of the 2008 EIEA were Eastern Kentucky University's College of Business and Technology, Kentucky Highlands Investment Corp. and The Center for Rural Development. Contributing partners for this year's program were A T & T, platinum sponsor; Outdoor Venture Corp., gold sponsor; and Eastern Kentucky University, Masters of Business Administration; ECU Innovation and Commercialization Center, Eastern Region; Rockcastle County Chamber of Commerce; and Somerset Recycling Services Inc., bronze sponsors.

To be eligible for the Excellence in Entrepreneurship Awards competition, businesses must be located in one of the following 55 Southern and Eastern Kentucky counties: Adair, Bath, Bell, Boyd, Boyle, Breathitt, Carter, Casey, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Edmonson, Elliott, Estill, Fleming, Floyd, Garrard, Green, Greenup, Harlan, Hart, Jackson, Jessamine, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lewis, Lincoln, McCreary, Madison, Magoffin, Martin, Menifee, Metcalf, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Taylor, Wayne, Whitley and Wolfe.

Visit www.eiea.eku.edu or www.centertech.com for more information on EIEA program.

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Photo Caption: Kenneth Robinson, deputy commissioner for Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, Department of Existing Business Development, delivers the keynote address at the 2008 Excellence in Entrepreneurship Awards program.

Photo Caption: Eastern Kentucky University President Dr. Doug Whitlock presents 2008 Entrepreneurial Leadership Institute (ELI) first-place team members with certificates of recognition for winning the business concept team competition. The team took home top honors at this year's ELI competition for its business plan, which included a proposal for a pediatric cancer center in Southern Kentucky. From left are team members Katie Parks and Eric Bird, both of Somerset; Tyler Nickell, Morehead; and Emily Coleman of Elkhorn City. The winning team members will receive an offer for a Presidential Scholarship to attend Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond.

Cutline: Debbie Long, executive director of God's Food Pantry, accepts the 2008 Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award in the category of Not-For-Profit Entity. From left are Eastern Kentucky University College of Business & Technology Dean Robert Rogow; Eastern Kentucky University President Dr. Doug Whitlock; Long; guest speaker Kenneth Robinson, deputy commissioner for Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, Department of Existing Business Development; Jerry Rickett, president and chief executive officer of Kentucky Highlands Investment Corp.; and The Center for Rural Development President and CEO Lonnie Lawson.

Cutline: Terry E. Forcht, founder, president and chief executive officer of Forcht Group of Kentucky in Corbin, accepts the 2008 Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award in the category of For-Profit Business. From left are Eastern Kentucky University College of Business & Technology Dean Robert Rogow; Eastern Kentucky University President Dr. Doug Whitlock; Forcht; guest speaker Kenneth Robinson, deputy commissioner for Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, Department of Existing Business Development; Jerry Rickett, president and chief executive officer of Kentucky Highlands Investment Corp.; and The Center for Rural Development President and CEO Lonnie Lawson.

Cutline: Steve Taylor, president of EST Tool & Machine Inc. of Brodhead, accepts the 2008 Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award in the category of For-Profit Small Business. From left are Eastern Kentucky University College of Business & Technology

Dean Robert Rogow; Eastern Kentucky University President Dr. Doug Whitlock; Taylor; guest speaker Kenneth Robinson, deputy commissioner for Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, Department of Existing Business Development; Jerry Rickett, president and chief executive officer of Kentucky Highlands Investment Corp.; and The Center for Rural Development President and CEO Lonnie Lawson.

Cutline: Bryan and Scott Floyd, owners of Floyd Industries LLC, accept the 2008 Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award in the category of Start-Up Business. From left are Eastern Kentucky University College of Business & Technology Dean Robert Rogow; Eastern Kentucky University President Dr. Doug Whitlock; Scott Floyd; Derek Daulton, CFO of Floyd Industries; Bryan Floyd; guest speaker Kenneth Robinson, deputy commissioner for Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, Department of Existing Business Development; Jerry Rickett, president and chief executive officer of Kentucky Highlands Investment Corp.; and The Center for Rural Development President and CEO Lonnie Lawson.