



Kentucky League of Cities NEWS RELEASE

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Murray State University and Kentucky League of Cities Announce Community and Economic Development Partnership

MURRAY, KY – Murray State University (MSU) and the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) are teaming up to provide MSU Center for Economic and Entrepreneurial Development (CEED) training and informational services to elected city officials. Additionally, KLC and MSU CEED will work together to identify and seek solutions to the challenges and issues facing elected city officials in the areas of community and economic development. The partnership will capitalize on MSU's regional footprint and will aim to develop opportunities across the commonwealth.

The objectives of the new partnership include the following:

- To better inform elected leaders of best practices for working alongside economic development professionals within their cities;
- To provide resources to help local officials craft policies and provide appropriate amenities that make their cities more attractive to development; and
- To further expand economic development opportunities and grow jobs within local communities, particularly within local business districts.

MSU CEED provides western Kentucky entrepreneurs, small businesses and industries with the management consulting, business training and access to business resources that are needed to compete in today's challenging global economy. CEED also seeks opportunities to connect businesses in the region with students. Internships, mentorships, project assistance and other engagements provide experiential learning opportunities for students and provide businesses and industries with needed skills and potential employees. CEED serves 24 western Kentucky counties.

The Kentucky League of Cities is an association of 380 Kentucky cities, made up of elected leaders, city employees and organizations that provide municipal services. KLC provides resources, advocacy, training, community and economic development, legal and other assistance that make cities more livable and help attract businesses.

Murray State University President Dr. Bob Jackson said, "We are very excited to partner with the Kentucky League of Cities as we advance economic development initiatives throughout the state. We have a tremendous responsibility to assist the commonwealth in promoting high-quality, high-value educational and training programs through our Center for Economic and Entrepreneurial Development as well as other academic units as we further develop our economy and workforce."

Dr. David Eaton, interim dean of the MSU Bauernfeind College of Business, added, "We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with the Kentucky League of Cities and look forward to working with local elected officials to help them provide economic growth opportunities to their communities and citizens."

"I am excited about the opportunity to partner with the Kentucky League of Cities to assist in supporting economic development efforts across the commonwealth," said Chris Wooldridge, director of the MSU CEED.

KLC Executive Director/CEO J.D. Chaney praised the partnership. "Murray State University's Center for Economic and Entrepreneurial Development will be an invaluable resource to Kentucky's locally elected city officials," he remarked. "We believe this partnership will produce long-term economic impacts and provide a model that can be replicated across the commonwealth."

KLC and MSU will launch the new initiative at the KLC ACE Conference to be held in Lexington, Kentucky on June 15-17, 2021.