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Carpenter Elected New SKED Director

SOMERSET, Ky. – A Whitley County native is the newest addition to the Southeast Kentucky Economic Development Corporation’s (SKED) Board of Directors.

Bruce Carpenter was installed as a director on the nonprofit economic development organization’s board at its annual general membership meeting in April. The Corbin resident fills the vacant seat of Dr. Jo Marshall who will retire as Somerset Community College president in June. Marshall served on the board for 15 years.

Carpenter brings 13 years of economic development experience to the 12-member board. He’s been Executive Director of the Corbin Economic Development Agency since 2005.



BRUCE CARPENTER

Being nominated as a SKED director is an honor, he said.

“SKED has an extensive history of dedication to economic growth and development opportunities for our region,” he said. “It is an honor to be chosen to serve on the Southeast Kentucky Economic Development Board of Directors. I look forward to contributing to SKED’s continuing success.”

The Corbin Economic Development Agency operates and manages the Southeast Kentucky Regional Business Park and the Tri-County Industrial Park. The Southern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and the Corbin Industrial Development Commission are also a part of this umbrella organization. Carpenter works as executive director for all of these entities.

He is a past Chairman and board member of the Kentucky Association of Economic Development. Carpenter currently serves on the Williamsburg/ Whitley County Airport Board,

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the KU Consumer Advisory Board and the Patient Advisory Board for Baptist Health Corbin. He served on the SKED General Membership Board for nine years.

Carpenter and his wife, Teresa, are small business owners in Corbin. He graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1976 with a BS in Business Administration.

SKED Executive Director Brett Traver says Carpenter will bring a unique perspective to the board, as it begins its 32nd year of service to the region.

“Successful regional economic development leaders, like Bruce, play a key role in recruiting industry to the region,” Traver said. “If it wasn’t for the day-to-day work completed by our region’s economic development specialists, it would make job recruitment here much more difficult. Bruce brings a unique perspective to the board and will be a great asset to our work going forward.”

Carpenter joins 11 other directors on the SKED Board. The SKED Executive Committee consists of Corey Craig, president of Citizens Bank of Mt. Vernon; Ben Sams, account executive with Cisco Systems, vice-president; Praetorian Standard Inc. Project Manager David Blakeman, secretary; Somerset CPA Shirley Gifford, treasurer; and Lake Cumberland Area Development District Director Darryl McGaha as at-large director.

Other directors currently serving on the SKED Board are as follows: Charlene Harris, president and CEO of First National Bank of Russell Springs; Virginia Flanagan, special assistant to the President of Campbellsville University; Tim Barnes, president and CEO of Hometown Bank; Daryl Smith, economic development project manager with Kentucky Utilities; Tim Gibbs, president and CEO of Ashland Alliance and Carol Wright, president and CEO of Jackson Energy Cooperative.

SKED is a non-profit economic development organization and a Certified Development Corporation (CDC). The organization was formed 32 years ago by Fifth District Congressman Hal Rogers to create jobs in Southeast Kentucky.

SKED’s offices are based in Somerset, serving a 45-county service region. A staff of nine professionals works with business owners, small and large, to identify financing solutions to fund their location, expansion and working capital needs, and provide them the technical assistance and training they need to succeed. For more information about SKED, visit our website: www.southeastkentucky.com or call (606) 677-6100.