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Craig Elected SKED Board of Directors' President

SOMERSET, Ky. – A Rockcastle County native will lead the Southeast Kentucky Economic Development Corporation's (SKED) Board of Directors for the next two years.

Corey Craig was installed as the nonprofit economic development organization's president at the April Board meeting. Craig takes the reins of the 31-year-old organization from Darryl McGaha who had served as the Board's president since April 2015.

Craig brings six years of SKED experience to the office, having served previously as the organization's secretary and vice-president. He's been a director since 2011 but worked closely with SKED before that as a part of SKED's General Membership, since 2009, and as chairman of the Rockcastle County Industrial Development Authority.

"SKED is an organization that has been very successful at helping the small businesses and communities of Southeast Kentucky for many years," Craig said. "I am honored to be a small part of it."

Craig is President/CEO and Director of Citizens Bank and Rockcastle Bancorp, Inc. He has a BS in Business Administration from Berea College and is a 2003 graduate of the Louisiana State University School of Banking. He also serves on the boards of the Bankers Bank of Kentucky, Bluegrass Community Bankers Association, Rockcastle County Industrial Development Authority and the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED).

Assisting Craig in SKED's oversight during the next two years are the remaining members of the SKED Executive Committee: Ben Sams, account executive with Cisco Systems, vice-president; Praetorian Standard Inc. Project Manager David Blakeman as secretary; Somerset CPA Shirley Gifford as treasurer; and Lake Cumberland Area Development District Director Darryl McGaha as at-large director.

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Other directors currently serving on the SKED Board are as follows: Charlene Harris, president and CEO of First National Bank of Russell Springs; Dr. Jo Marshall, president of Somerset Community College; 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 Executive Director Brett Traver says the corporation is honored to be represented by such distinguished and experienced directors, as it begins its 31st year of service to the region.

“Our volunteer board members take time from their busy schedules each month to help lead the organization’s programs and make important financial decisions.” Traver said. “Their volunteer efforts are invaluable to SKED’s future success. We look forward to working with Corey and the new executive committee during the next two years.”

SKED is a non-profit economic development organization and has been designated a Certified Development Corporation (CDC) by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The organization was formed 31 years ago by Fifth District Congressman Hal Rogers to create jobs in Southeast Kentucky.

Its offices are based in Somerset, serving a 45-county service region. A staff of eight 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.

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Members of the 2017-2018 SKED Board of Directors are pictured front row from left: Darryl McGaha, Shirley Gifford, Charlene Harris, Dr. Jo Marshall and Virginia Flanagan; back row from left are Tim Barnes, Daryl Smith, Ben Sams and Corey Craig. Not pictured are: Carol Wright and Tim Gibbs.