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## Cook is SKED's New Director of Lending

SOMERSET, Ky. – A Kentucky native is coming home to lead the lending department at Southeast Kentucky Economic Development Corporation (SKED). Paul Cook begins work as SKED's Director of Lending this month.

The Spencer County native brings more than 20 years of lending experience to the 29-year-old nonprofit economic development organization. Having spent most of his career in a number of different lending positions at CoBank in Greenwood, Colorado, Cook says he's prepared to use his acquired experience and depth of knowledge in the private sector to oversee the organization's \$6 million loan portfolio and help build on its successful loan programs.

"I'm excited about joining the SKED team and contributing to its mission of serving the communities within its region," Cook said. "My wife, Theresa, and I cherish this opportunity to return to our home state of Kentucky and become part of the Somerset community."

In addition to Cook's professional experience, he holds a Master's degree in Business from the University of Louisville and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Kentucky.

SKED Executive Director Brett Traver says Paul's knowledge of SKED's service area and decades of lending experience were key factors in selecting him for the management position.

"We are pleased our search to fill this position has ended with a Kentucky native," said SKED Executive Director Brett Traver. "Paul's extensive lending and management experience



Paul Cook

**Southeast Kentucky  
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will be key in helping our lending department develop and continue to provide the vital loan programs it's offered this region for the past 15-plus years. His knowledge of our 45-county service region will be invaluable in the coming years."

Cook was a member of Farmhouse Fraternity at the University of Kentucky. He has two grown sons: Patrick and Andrew.

He can be reached at the SKED offices, located in the Center for Rural Development, by phone at 606-677-6046 or email at [pcook@centertech.com](mailto:pcook@centertech.com).

SKED is a nonprofit economic development organization and has been designated a Certified Development Corporation (CDC) by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The organization was formed 29 years ago by Fifth District Congressman Hal Rogers to create jobs in Southeast Kentucky.

Its corporate office is based in Somerset, with satellite locations in Morehead and Whitesburg, and serves a 45-county service region. A staff of 11 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](http://www.southeastkentucky.com).