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## McGaha Elected SKED Board of Directors President

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

Darryl McGaha was installed as the nonprofit economic development organization’s president at the April Board meeting. McGaha takes the reins of the 29-year-old organization from Corbin resident Tim Barnes who had served as the Board’s president since April 2011.

McGaha brings seven years of SKED experience to the office, having served previously as the organization’s secretary and vice-president. He’s been a director since 2008, but his role as workforce development director for the Lake Cumberland Area Development District has kept him at the forefront of economic development activities around the region for years.



Darryl McGaha

“Since becoming a member of the SKED Board of Directors, I have experienced great leadership from the president, other officers and members of the board,” McGaha said. “To be named president at SKED is humbling and comes with great responsibility to ensure the high quality of service that has been delivered in the past will continue.”

“The opportunity to improve the economy of Southeast Kentucky by assisting existing and new businesses within SKED’s service area is exciting to see both continued growth and to provide job security for existing employees and new opportunities for others.”

McGaha has served in his current position with the Lake Cumberland ADD for more than 15 years. As director, he has played a role in administering the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which works with youth, adults, dislocated workers and trade-affected participants. Its goal is to help individuals find a job with the skills they possess or assist in helping them gain a

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skill with demand occupations. It also assists the business community and economic development leaders to strengthen and recruit businesses by supplying them with a trained workforce.

McGaha graduated from Adair County High School, Lindsey Wilson College and Campbellsville University. He worked for Imo Pump in Columbia for 19 years.

Assisting McGaha 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 as vice-president; Citizens Bank of Mount Vernon President Corey Craig as secretary; Somerset CPA Shirley Gifford as treasurer; and Hometown Bank President Tim Barnes 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; Michael Hayes, director of the Kentucky Highlands Empowerment Zone and special projects manager for Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation; Dr. Jo Marshall, president of Somerset Community College, Virginia Flanagan, special assistant to the President of Campbellsville University, David Blakeman, chief engineer at Praetorian Standard, Inc., Daryl Smith, economic development executive with Kentucky Utilities in Lexington and Rodney Hitch, director of corporate economic development for East Kentucky Power Cooperative.

SKED Executive Director Brett Traver says the corporation is honored to be represented by such distinguished and experienced directors as it begins its 29th year of service to the region.

“Our volunteer board of directors meets monthly to oversee the organization's programs and financial decisions. They bring with them an array of experience and diversity to unite for the single purpose of helping SKED fulfill its mission of job creation and improving economic conditions in its 45-county service area of Southeast Kentucky,” Traver said. “Their volunteer efforts are invaluable to SKED's future success. Staff looks forward to working with Darryl 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

# Southeast Kentucky Economic Development



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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 to serve its 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](http://www.southeastkentucky.com) or call (606) 677-6100.



Members of the 2015-2016 SKED Board of Directors are pictured front row from left: Darryl McGaha, Shirley Gifford, David Blakeman and Charlene Harris; back row from left, Michael Hayes, Corey Craig, Daryl Smith and Tim Barnes. Not pictured are: Dr. Jo Marshall, Rodney Hitch, Virginia Flanagan and Ben Sams.