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## **Perry County Native Joins SKED Staff**

SOMERSET, Ky. – Eastern Kentucky native Kyle Smith joins the Southeast Kentucky Economic Development Corporation (SKED’s) staff in January.

The Perry County native has been hired as SKED’s small business training specialist. Smith will work with Small Business Training Director Amanda Kelly in the deployment of SMARTS 2.0 classes across Southeast Kentucky and one-on-one with small business owners to provide with them with the most up-to-date social media and information technology training.



KYLE SMITH

Smith says he looks forward to giving back to the region he loves and knows well.

“Growing up in Southeastern Kentucky, I quickly realized the importance of small businesses in our area,” he said. “Working for SKED will give me an opportunity to help new and established small businesses succeed as their need to have an internet presence continues to grow.”

He added, he will use the experience, training and skills he’s acquired at Morehead State University (MSU), located in Morehead, Ky., to give small business owners across SKED’s 45-county service area the tools they need to market and sell their goods and services to customers worldwide.

Smith has a master’s degree in business administration from MSU. Since earning his bachelor’s degree in 2016, he’s worked as a graduate assistant there.

SKED Executive Director Brett Traver says Smith’s knowledge of the region and experience in computer information systems make him a perfect fit for the position.

“We are pleased to have Kyle join our staff,” said Traver. “He brings a fresh approach to the business training program that we hope will give it a jumpstart in 2018.”

**Southeast Kentucky  
Economic Development**   
A Regional Growth Corporation

Smith can be reached at the SKED offices, located in the Center for Rural Development, by phone at (606) 309-7517 or email at [ksmith@centertech.com](mailto:ksmith@centertech.com).

SKED is a nonprofit economic development organization and has been designated a 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 corporate office is based in Somerset and serves 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](http://www.southeastkentucky.com).