

## KENTUCKY ENTREPRENEURIAL COACHES INSTITUTE CLASS IV – DIRECTORY



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**Director**

**Kentucky Entrepreneurial Coaches Institute  
2009-2011 Fellows Biographies  
South Central Kentucky**

**Armitage, Barbara** (*Adair County*) serves the Adair County community as the founder and president of the Adair County garden Club and as an environmentally responsible citizen and business person. She owns and operates Tucker's Station Farms, a season tree and perennial nursery. Armitage was recently appointed as the chairperson of the Court House Utilization Committee, a group devoted to the restoration and use of the historic Adair County courthouse building. Armitage retired to Adair County in 2004 after having worked throughout the state of Kentucky with Xerox and serving as the Director of Recreation for the U.S. Army, both domestically and internationally. She now resides in one of Adair County's oldest homes with her husband and four legged children.

**Auch, Tim** (*Marion County*) owns two alpaca farms. One is a breeding and boarding farm and the other is a fiber farm. Auch is an active member of the agri-tourism group for Lebanon/Marion County and the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce.

**Bhattacharya, Raja** (*Warren County*) currently serves as the managing partner for Kentucky Global Ventures, LLC. Bhattacharya received his MBA from the WKU Gordon Ford College of Business in 1998. He is a passionate entrepreneur and has worked with numerous small and mid-sized businesses from marketing to financing. In addition to his work, he enjoys travel and sports.

**Burnett, Bonnie** (*Warren County*) is employed at FedEx Ground. Her role is called Contractor Resource Specialist, serving many cities to include: Evansville, IN, Bowling Green, KY, and Nashville & Lawrenceburg, TN. By partnering with communities, she uses resources to find business/entrepreneurial candidates who would like to become business partners as independent contractors for FedEx Ground & Home Delivery. Bonnie is an avid equestrian and lives on a small horse farm in Warren County.

**Burton, Zane** (*Pulaski County*) owns and operates Sinking Valley Vineyard and Winery in Plato, KY. The Vineyard grows in the forests of the Cumberland Plateau in Sinking Valley. The vineyard and winery overlook a long valley of sinkholes and caves. The runoff from Sinking Valley forms Short Creek the "biggest short creek in the world," about 10 miles down from the winery.

**Cannon, Ricky** (*Casey County*) is a native of Casey County where he grew up on the farm that his parents still operate today. He currently owns and operates a beef cattle farm. Cannon's community involvement includes serving as a member, chief and board member of the Brush Creek Volunteer Fire Department for many years. He also served as a volunteer coach for the youth basketball program for 11 years and as a board member for the local extension office. He currently serves as song leader and business meeting moderator for Poplar Grove Baptist Church and as a member of the Baptist Association's budget committee.

**Costello, Charlie** (*Metcalf County*) was born and raised in Metcalfe County and returned home 11 years ago after serving in both the U.S. Army, Airforce, and as a police officer in Arkansas. Land development and a trucking company lead to a successful entrepreneurial spirit which includes farming, produce marketing and enjoyable grandchildren. As member of several veterans' organizations, he spends a lot of time doing community and school veteran's education programs.

**Drake, Greg** (*Butler County*) serves Butler County as the County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources where he strives to improve the community, quality of residents lives, increase farm revenue, increase natural resource conservation practices and improve leadership skills. Drake is involved in the Kentucky Association of County Extension Agents, the Morgantown/Butler County Chamber of Commerce, the Little Muddy Rural Development Club, and serves on the Butler County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

**Garrett, Steve** (*Metcalf County*) is a life-long resident of Metcalfe County. He is a member of the local chamber of commerce, serves the local industrial board as the director and recruiter, is a member and former president of the Kentucky Beverage Association, and is a member of the Board of Trustees for Campbellsville University. Garratt has a 25 year management background with the Clark owned Coca-Cola operations in Kentucky and Indiana. In



1986 he was named general manager of its Kentucky Coca-Cola division. He served in this capacity until 2006 when he formed his own marketing/consulting company, Visual Power Inc. Steve now works with businesses on creating highly competitive and distinctive brand strategies.

**Gossage, John** (*Casey/Adair County*) has been an active member of the agricultural and business communities of Casey and the surrounding counties throughout his entire professional career. He is a former Chairman of the Casey County Extension District Board. Gossage currently serves as the president of the Casey County Cattleman's Association and is a past director of the Kentucky Cattleman's Association. He has been involved in the banking industry in South Central Kentucky for over 12 years.

**Hogan, Gary "Doc"** (*Barren County*) raises money for the drilling of oil and natural wells throughout Kentucky and Tennessee. He is the chairman of the finance committee for the Cave City Council, is involved in the Cave City Church of Christ, and the American Oil and Gas Association.

**Hunter, JJ** (*Russell County*) has served the region as a Park Ranger Sergeant for the KY State Park System. Hunter is currently pursuing entrepreneurial endeavors.

**Jennings, Kathern** (*Butler County*) is the owner/operator of Mikapa Inc. and Master One Tax Services in Morgantown, KY. She is involved in her community in various capacities and has served as the past president of the Chamber of Commerce. She currently serves as the chairperson of the Butler County Citizens Advisory panel and as a coordinator of the Sister City program of Nanao City, Japan. I also serve as a board member and treasurer of Morgantown Community Mission and as the administration director of Cool Springs Church.

**Malloy, Shawn** (*Washington County*) has past job experiences that have involved managing a highly technical group of engineers to develop cast iron gas and wood stoves for the hearth industry. He managed product development and was responsible for the set up of a new state-of-the-art sheet metal manufacturing line. Malloy currently owns and operates Flaggy Meadow Fiber Works which processes raw animal fleece into yarn, roving and felt for farms nationwide.

**Martin, Jennifer** (*Metcalfe County*) is a native of Michigan, a graduate of Caledonia High School and has resided in Edmonton, KY since 1995. She is co-owner of Bluegrass Blueberries and the Kentucky Blueberry Growers Association, Inc. She is an active member of Grace Union Baptist Church, assists with Vacation Bible School and many other church related activities. She is also a member of the Metcalfe County Chamber of Commerce and participates in chamber projects as time allows. She is currently involved in the Metcalfe County Leadership Program.

**McCollom, Jennifer** (*McCreary County*) is the mother of two boys. She works with the AmeriCorps-Vista program assisting with economic development, tourism and the chamber of commerce. McCollom works closely with the school system, where she helps other parents of special needs children find resources.

**McCulley, Mindy** (*Barren County*) has been the County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences in Barren County for 11 years. As an extension educator, McCulley's primary focus has been on enhancing family life through the development of healthy life skills. Mindy is a graduate of the University of Kentucky with a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degree in Family Studies. Her interest in entrepreneurship stems from the desire to help rural communities maintain their unique characteristics through enhancing small business development. McCulley and her husband Craig have two children, Joshua and Matthew.

**McGinn, Karen** (*Hart County*) is the owner/operator of the Heritage Arts Center, which includes a Fine and Folk Art Gallery, studio, classroom and full bakery. When she is not cooking, Karen is likely to be teaching one of the arts, public speaking or attending a community meeting such as the Arts Council, Rotary, or Women's Networking. She is also a Graduate Gemologist, and accomplished artist and the mother of two fully grown children.

**McKinney, Dwayne** (*Butler County*) is the owner/operator of Dwayne's Excavation. He has constructed small ponds and lakes, building sites, land clearings and the like for over 27 years in Butler and surrounding counties. He also farms 500 acres in the Provo community of Butler County, raising corn, soybeans, and wheat. He was a part-time deputy for the Butler County Sheriff's Department from 1998-2006 and also worked part-time for the Morgantown City Police. He is the vice-president of the Provo Rural Development Club.



**Moore, Chris** (*Warren County*) was born and raised in Hopkins County, Kentucky. He has six plus years of experience in research and product development engineering, and sixteen years of machining, welding, prototyping experience. Most of those years were spent in a manufacturing environment. Moore currently works as a mechanical support specialist and instructor in the Engineering Department at WKU in Bowling Green, KY where he has also earned a M.S. in Technology Management and a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering Technology. He is also an entrepreneur who has successfully launched his own product development and project management company. Moore is interested in growing our state's economy through the development and implementation of viable entrepreneurial businesses and technologies. He has been married to his beautiful wife for seven years and has one amazing six year old son. Moore enjoys working with his church and with different ages of our youth.

**Noble, Nick** (*Edmonson County*) is an entrepreneur and president and co-founder of the Fortress Group, Inc. His company owns and operates the Rockcastle Shooting Center at Park Mammoth Resort in Park City and is in the process of transforming the 40 year old golf resort into a recreational and tactical shooting destination. Prior to starting his own company, he spent 15 years in corporate America as a sales and marketing executive. Noble is active in many local organizations including the Edmonson County Industrial Authority, Chamber of Commerce, Knights of Columbus, and the Caveland Marketing Association.

**Poindexter, Neal** (*Cumberland County*) grew up in Kentucky and worked long hours in tobacco, setting lots of it with a cedar peg. He joined the Marine Corps where he served over 20 years, earning the rank of 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant. He and his wife have made 14 major moves around the United States. Since returning to Kentucky in 2004, Poindexter has been very active in his community, volunteering for numerous events and projects including junior guard instructor in the school system and being Santa in the town Christmas parade.

**Poindexter, Stephen** (*Cumberland County*) is a private attorney who concentrates his practice in the areas of criminal defense, divorce/child custody, and social security disability. He serves his community as president of the Burkesville/Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce, vice-president of the Lake Cumberland Child Advocacy Center and as a member of the Cumberland County Tourism Commission, Cumberland River Area P-16 Council, 2010 Relay for Life Committee, Lake Cumberland Area Development District, and several other community activities.

**Poteet, Penny** (*Edmonson County*) is the Edmonson County Adult Education Director. She teaches adults the skills necessary to obtain a GED or a job. She also owns and operates her own rental real estate business. She has started an alpaca ranch and a dog kennel. She loves animals and being a musician. She is the drummer for the Simply Country Band.

**Russell, Ken** (*Hart County*) is currently employed by the Caverna Independent School District where he works at the Central Office in Finance/Accounts Payables. Russell owned and operated an independent retail clothing store in Horse Cave for over 35 years before selling the business in 2008. He is the president of the Horse Cave Development Corporation, a non-profit corporation committed to purchasing and historically restoring downtown properties in Horse Cave for the purpose of attracting quality retail, art and art-related retail to the district. Russell also manages both commercial and residential rental property in Horse Cave.

**Sanders, Richie** (*Allen County*) is currently serving South Central Kentucky as the Scottsville-Allen County IDA after 12 years of service to the Commonwealth as a State Senator for the 9<sup>th</sup> District and as the Majority Caucus Chairman. Sanders strives to start an economic development program in Allen County, to help existing industries and to recruit new industries and businesses to the area.

**Slaughter, Miller** (*Warren County*) is the Director of Regional Economic Development for the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce. He received his B.S. from the University of Kentucky in Business Administration and worked in retail department store management before going on to receive a Master's in Management from Northwestern. Over the past 30 years, Slaughter has worked in consumer products marketing and product development for products like Coppertone Sunscreen and Purex Laundry Detergent. He later helped start a scrap metal recycling company before going to work with the KY Cabinet of Economic Development. He now works in economic development, helping nine counties in South Central Kentucky.

**Stinson, Lonnie** (*Wayne County*) was raised on a farm in Albany, KY. He raised swine and grew tobacco and then went to work for a short time at a sawmill. Stinson then purchased a drilling rig and started drilling water wells. He then bought 30 acres of property and built two poultry houses for avian farms. Stinson started his own dump truck,

back hoe and dozer business and also started a lime service. He also owns and manages rental property and is the vice-president of the Woodmen in Wayne County.

**Stroud, Amy** (*Pulaski County*) is the Community Liaison and sales associate for the Center for Rural Development headquartered in Somerset, KY. She previously served as a Field Representative for Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher. Stroud is a member of the Young Chamber Professionals of Pulaski County and the Young Professionals of Eastern Kentucky. She studies abroad for a semester during her tenure at the University of the Cumberlands. She was born in Whitley County, KY.

**Young, Greg** (*Marion County*) is a full time farmer. He is active in several community organizations including Farm Bureau and the Marion County Cattleman's Association. Young hopes to continue to see the rural economy contribute to Kentucky's growth.