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## Summit of the South returns with local guest speakers

By ANDREW HARP THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE  
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Local entrepreneurs are invited to a Bowling Green event that could possibly help them in their business pursuits.

The second annual Summit of the South will be held Nov. 17 at the WKU Small Business Accelerator at the WKU Innovation Campus. The event is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Hardin County entrepreneurs Bobbie Crabtree and Kevin Shurn are the top speakers of the event. The event is free and breakfast and lunch is provided. Kerrick Bachert, PSC is the breakfast sponsor and Abound Credit Union is the lunch sponsor.

Lisa Williams, regional director of CREATE, director of KY Innovation's Elizabethtown office and the creator of the event, said it's for budding entrepreneurs to come together to network and learn.

"We want them to know about the abundance of services that are available to them across the state," Williams said about local entrepreneurs.

Williams said both Hardin County speakers have national and international reach in their pursuits.

"That is so important to let people know that ... you're right here in Hardin County or wherever you are, that you can have that great idea and turn it into an international company," Williams said.

Crabtree, founder of USA Bridal & Tuxedo Avenue, will be the kickoff guest speaker for the event. She said she attended the event last year.

She and her husband donated office space in Elizabethtown for the Center for Kentucky Entrepreneurship which includes the KY Innovation Office, the Small Business Development Center, the Kentucky Veteran Business Alliance and more.

Crabtree said she will talk about how she got started with her businesses and also discuss the innovation center at the summit.

She said she found the breakout session especially informative at last year's event.

"It doesn't matter if you're you're new to business or if you've been in business for four years, there's something that you can learn here," Crabtree said.

Breakout session subjects include grants, government contracts, Kentucky small business tax incentives and patents and copyright. Williams said these sessions are hosted by experts.

The keynote speakers of the summit is Shurn, the president/owner of Superior Maintenance Company in Elizabethtown.

“I think anybody that goes to listen to him will be very, very happy with what he has to say,” Crabtree said.

Those interested in the event can register at <https://tinyurl.com/2jxvsfvv> or scan the QR code.

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