New workforce grant aims to keep college grads in town

By DON SERGENT dsergent@bgdailynews.com  Dec 7, 2019

Jon Sowards
Submitted
Students of Western Kentucky University and Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College already provide a boost to the Bowling Green economy and serve as a good source of seasonal employees. Now, local workforce development professionals aim to ensure more of those students remain part of the region’s workforce long after their final exam.
The South Central Workforce Development Board has procured grant funding to develop what’s being branded as the Career 270 initiative that will focus on keeping WKU and SKYCTC graduates close to their home campuses.

The $85,000 grant from the Kentucky Cabinet for Education and Workforce Development will be used to hire a staff member at the workforce board who will serve as a liaison between the local colleges and local employers.

“We want to work more closely with college students and recent graduates to help them find employment opportunities in our 10-county region,” said Robert Boone, the workforce board’s president and CEO.

Boone explained that the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funding that makes up most of the workforce board’s budget can’t be used for retaining college graduates. This grant will fill in the funding gap while also helping address the region’s large number of job openings.

According to the open jobs report produced by the JobsEQ research firm, the 10-county southcentral Kentucky region currently has more than 7,000 open positions.

It only makes sense, says workforce board Vice President of Operations Jon Sowards, to use local higher education to fill some of those openings.

“As a region, we don’t do a good job of connecting students to local
employers,” Sowards said. “The education liaison will be an intermediary who will get in front of those students and connect them with our services.

“Instead of letting that talent run off to Nashville or Louisville or somewhere else, we’ll try to keep them here.”

Boone said the Career 270 initiative will start in January. He believes it fits well with the workforce Board’s KY hirED program that places WKU and SKYCTC students in part-time jobs and offers them the opportunity to earn scholarship money.

The education liaison hired for the Career 270 initiative will provide a more focused service than the career services offices at WKU and SKYCTC, Boone said.

“The career services offices have job openings from across the country,” he said. “We’re only concerned with our 10 counties and connecting students to jobs in our region.”

– Follow business reporter Don Sergent on Twitter @BGDNbusiness or visit bgdailynews.com.

Baking Soda Tricks Everyone Should Know About

Abandoned Farmhouse Discovered On Long Island

Past Factory | Sponsored
At 56, Wesley Snipes Is Living With His Partner In This House
FinancialAdvisorHeroes | Sponsored

Dad Chops Daughter's Hair Off, Mom Does Unthinkable
Articles Vally | Sponsored

Couple Finds Strange Animal In Their Backyard, Then Something Incredible Happens
Bukisa | Sponsored

At 97, Betty White Johnson Lives In This House
Locksmith of Hearts | Sponsored

80 of Oprah's Favorite Things Just in Time for the Holidays
O The Oprah Magazine | Sponsored

These 23 Songs Truly Made History
Bukisa | Sponsored

VIDEO: Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin concedes election after recanvass
Bowling Green Daily News

Chandler, Simpson buying portion of Park Mammoth
Bowling Green Daily News
Felts Log House at WKU to receive restoration
Bowling Green Daily News

Dad Chops Daughter's Hair Off, Mom Does Unthinkable
Articles Vally

At 56, Wesley Snipes Is Living With His Partner In This House
FinancialAdvisorHeroes

80 of Oprah's Favorite Things Just in Time for the Holidays
O The Oprah Magazine

William Wasn't Expecting Kate To Set A New Fashion, Then She Wore This Dress
Editor Choice

Pregnant Waitress Charges Cop $9 For Lunch, Moments Later Runs To Manager
Gloriousa

Cops Called In Hours After Couple Begins Renovation On Their Old Home
Novelodge

Symptoms of Psoriatic Arthritis May Vary. Research Psoriatic
VIDEO: Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin concedes election after recanvass
Bowling Green Daily News

Chandler, Simpson buying portion of Park Mammoth
Bowling Green Daily News

Felts Log House at WKU to receive restoration
Bowling Green Daily News

Don Sergent
Brilliant Trick Melts Belly Fat Overnight (Do This Tonight)

Tom Selleck Confirms the Rumors On Today.

O'Reilly is Back

Trump Jr. Ruins His Father on Live Television