

Congratulations to Woodford County on being the recipient of the 2012 Innovator Award for its Work Ready Community status.



## Congratulations Woodford County - 2012 Innovator Award Winner



June 1, 2012 – Woodford County has been selected as a 2012 Innovator Award Winner for its Work Ready Community status. The Woodford County Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Bluegrass Workforce Investment Board (BGWIB) applied for the designation as part of the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB) Work Ready Community initiative.

Innovator Awards are presented annually to one organization in each of Southern Growth's 13 member states (Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia) in recognition of initiatives and organizations that are improving economic opportunities and quality of life in the region. The 2012 Innovator Awards recognize those who are successfully preparing Southerners to meet the workforce needs of a globally competitive business sector.

The BGWIB submitted Woodford County and their Work Ready Community status as an example of the commitment to continuous workforce improvement. The certification builds on the concept of certified employability at the individual level—as indicated by a person's attainment of diplomas, degrees, certificates, or other credentials. To earn the designation, Woodford County achieved success in meeting criteria including high school graduation rate, education attainment rate (ages 18-64), community commitment (must demonstrate commitment from economic development, elected officials, education, workforce development, and business and industry), percentage of households with broadband internet access, evidence of soft skills programs for both secondary and post secondary adult populations, and a plan for attaining the National Career Readiness Certificate.

The Southern Growth Policies Board is a non-partisan public policy think tank based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Formed by the region's governors in 1971, Southern Growth Policies Board develops and advances visionary economic development policies by providing a forum for partnership and dialog among a diverse cross-section of the region's governors, legislators, business and academic leaders and the economic- and community-development sectors. The awards will be presented at Southern Growth's 2012 Chairman's Conference, to be held June 25-26 in Chattanooga, Tennessee.