

ConnectKentucky Honors Commonwealth's Tech Leaders



Annual Tech Day, sponsored by CBTS and Humana, held at Great American Ball Park

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CINCINNATI, OH— [ConnectKentucky](http://ConnectKentucky.com) honored the Commonwealth's technology leaders for the fifth time at its 2011 Tech Day on April 29 at The Great American Ball Park before the Cincinnati Reds hosted the Florida Marlins. The event was sponsored this year by CBTS and Humana.

ConnectKentucky honored the following winners of the annual awards:

Small Business Technology Award: Innovative Workflow Technologies, a developer of software for the healthcare industry that is fast becoming a leader in the burgeoning field of healthcare technology by focusing on the needs of rural hospitals and community hospitals. Northwest Kentucky Forward nominated Innovative Workflow Technologies.

Large Business Technology Award: GSI Commerce, for being a leading provider of e-commerce and interactive marketing services, offering a broad solutions suite designed to power each aspect of a client's online business and effectively integrate with other channels. Northern Kentucky Tri-ED nominated GSI Commerce.

New and Emerging Business Technology Award: Cuddle Clones, LLC, which makes soft and adorable plush versions of people's pets. Customers upload pictures of their pet to Cuddle Clone's website and in return receive a high-quality, plush replica. Cuddle Clones was nominated by Van Clouse at the University of Louisville.

Secondary Student Technology Award: Chance Johnson, a 9th grader at LaRue County High School, for leading a school project of providing Wi-Fi Internet in the downtown square area of Hodgenville. He helped name Project SMART (Share More Accessibility – Route Technology) and has been involved in talking to community leaders, distributing flyers about the project, researching technology, and partnering with Lincoln National Bank to provide Wi-Fi for the downtown Hodgenville square area. Johnson was nominated by Doris Jean Holleran, coach of the LCMS Community Problem Solving Team.

Postsecondary Student Technology Award: Emily Crawford, a student at Northern Kentucky University, interviewed representatives from regional non-profit organizations and formed a detailed snapshot of how the organizations utilized technology, including what technologies the organizations needed and how these technologies could better drive organizational success. Emily's leadership, professionalism, and understanding of technology significantly contributed to the success of the project. David Hirsch with the Center for Applied Informatics at Northern Kentucky University nominated Crawford.

School District Technology Award: Jackson County Public Schools, for Project Café (Computers are for Everyone). Parents applied for 18-month, low interest loans to purchase (at discounted rates) a new home computer, Microsoft Office software, and 18 months of DSL access. Knowing that many parents were uncertain about what type of computer to purchase, the school district selected the appropriate model for the parents and provided free training for parents and

students. Norma Thomas, district technology coordinator for Jackson County Schools, nominated Jackson County Public Schools.

Postsecondary Institution Technology Award: The Communication Technologies Department of Western Kentucky University was honored for its leading-edge use of broadband technology to expand and enhance the educational opportunities provided to students across the Commonwealth. By providing hundreds of video conferencing courses per year, thousands of students across the Commonwealth are able to access classes that would otherwise be unavailable.

Government Leadership in Technology Award: Kentucky Regional Extension Center, which is assisting more than 600 primary care providers choose an Electronic Health Record (EHR) system, develop a positive workflow, determine usage gaps, and connect to the Kentucky Health Information Exchange. In 2009, Congress passed legislation to create an infrastructure of Regional Extension Centers that would assist healthcare providers implement EHRs. In 2010, the University of Kentucky's College of Medicine was awarded a Federal grant for the establishment of the Kentucky Regional Extension Center.

“These annual awards offer us an opportunity to publically acknowledge the people, companies, and organizations working to improve the quality of life for Kentuckians through technology,” said ConnectKentucky Executive Director René True.

The annual Tech Day event also featured several speakers, including David Couch, associate commissioner, Office of Knowledge, Information and Data Services, who spoke on the technology readiness of Kentucky schools; Al Lind, vice president for Technology and eLearning for the Council on Postsecondary Education, who spoke about broadband and higher education; Phil Baughn, executive director of the Commonwealth Office of Broadband Outreach and

Development, who spoke about the office's efforts to expand broadband in Kentucky; Tom Koutsky, Connected Nation's chief policy counsel, who gave an update on national broadband policy; and keynote speaker Robert Andrews, director of Security Services for CBTS, who spoke about current Internet security trends.

Photo Caption: Winners of the 2011 ConnectKentucky Tech Day awards were honored Friday, April 29, at the Great American Ball Park in Cincinnati.

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About ConnectKentucky: ConnectKentucky, a subsidiary of the national non-profit [Connected Nation](#), is leading the way into a new economy for Kentuckians. As an independent technology-based economic development organization, ConnectKentucky works to ensure that Kentucky remains the place of choice to live, work, and raise a family. ConnectKentucky is an alliance of technology-minded businesses, government entities, and universities working together to accelerate technology in the Commonwealth.