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### MSU School of Business Helps Coordinate and Sponsor Regional Entrepreneurship Competition with Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative for 113 Middle School Students 46 Businesses in Leburn, Kentucky. Students gain hands-on experience and real life knowledge of the business world.

Morehead State University, November 17, 2017: Morehead State University School of Business and students from entrepreneurship and innovation classes, Enactus students, and Dr. Janet Ratliff, along with Kelli Thompson from the Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative, all helped in the coordination of “Building Entrepreneurial Capacity for the Future" and the Regional Entrepreneurship Competition held in Leburn, Kentucky. Their combined efforts have gone to the development of the curriculum, alignment with state core standards in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, and KDE Program Review Practical Living/Career Studies, and the guidelines for the competition**.** The initial idea for this project came from the ever-increasing need for growth in economic development and entrepreneurship throughout Kentucky as well as across the state. Teaching entrepreneurship to the students at such a young age (research suggests middle school is the best time for such initiatives) should encourage entrepreneurial thinking and the prospect of entrepreneurship being a viable career choice. This could lead to an increase in developing these ideas and bringing new businesses to the area over time and more quickly than imagined.

On Friday November 17, 2017 students from the following schools participated Adams Middle School, Arlie Boggs Elementary School, Elkhorn City Middle School, Emmalena Elementary School, Feds Creek Elementary School, Hazard Middle School, Johnson County Middle School, Letcher Middle School, Millard School, Middlesboro Middle School, Paintsville Middle School and Campton Elementary. Students from these schools, along with their teachers, convened at the Sportsplex in Knott County, Kentucky for the 2017 Regional Entrepreneurial Competition. Students had previously competed at their middle schools and the winners advanced to this regional competition. The students in attendance set up a display, prototype and business plan to adequately present their business (be it a good or service) to be judged. Faculty, staff and 35 students from Morehead State University then judged their businesses. The winners of the competition were as follows:

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| **Sixth Grade** |
| **Business Name** | **School** | **Grade** | **Placement and Product Category** |
| Miracle Cofiltration | Letcher Middle  | 6th | 1st (Good) |
| Chase Your Dreams | Middlesboro Middle | 6th | 2nd (Good) |
| Fly Away Pallets | Arlie Boggs  | 6th | 3rd (Good) Tie |
| Squishy Buns | Paintsville | 6th | 3rd (Good) Tie |
| T & S Cleaner Uppers | Hazard | 6th | 1st (Service) |
| Fantastic Four | Paintsville | 6th | 2nd (Service) |
| The Mountain Brush | Arlie Boggs | 6th | 3rd (Service)Tie |
| Crater City Ghost Walk | Middlesboro | 6th  | 3rd (Service) Tie |
| **Seventh Grade** |
| Southern Sweets | Millard | 7th | 1st (Good) |
| Pine Mountain Packs | Arlie Boggs | 7th | 2nd (Good) |
| Egg Babies | Paintsville | 7th | 3rd (Good) |
| JCMS Scrapbooking | Johnson County | 7th | 1st (Service) |
| Dk’s Face Painting | Paintsville | 7th | 2nd (Service) |
| Nature’s Beauty | Arlie Boggs | 7th | 3rd(Service) |
| **Eighth Grade** |
| Beads-n-Bracelets | Johnson County | 8th | 1st (Good) |
| Cozy Candles | Emmalena | 8th | 2nd(Good) |
| 3 Gals Decals | Elkhorn City | 8th | 3rd (Good) |
| JB Clippers | Millard | 8th | 1st (Service) |
| Hydro-Green Farming | Letcher | 8th | 2nd (Service) |
| Paparazzi Pet Pics | Arlie Boggs | 8th | 3rd (Service) |
|  |  | **Special Awards** |  |
| Crater City Ghost Walk | Middlesboro | 6th (Service) | Most Creative |
| Geothermal Paradise | Letcher |  8th Good | Most Innovative |
| Hydro-Green Farming | Letcher | 8th (Service) | Most Technological |

**\*1st place=$70, 2nd Place=$60, 3rd place=$50**

Overall this competition gave 796 middle school students, from 13 schools, 9 districts and 8 counties an opportunity to gain real life business skills and applicable entrepreneurial knowledge. They created in the process, 313 businesses ranging from a wide variety of product offerings in both goods (235) and services (75).

We would like to send a note of a special thank you and appreciation to all teachers, staff, faculty and students from Enactus and Entrepreneurship and Innovation classes that helped in this endeavor, and especially Dr. Robert Albert, Dr. Jay Marshall, Ms. Connie Grimes, Louise Cooper, Hunter Branham, Jenna Johnson and Kyle Smith.

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