



MINORITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE WESTERN KENTUCKY, INC.

Serves as Western Kentucky's leading 501c3 economic development agency that impacts communities and economies for improvement using education, entrepreneurship, small, minority, and women-owned business development.

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Henry Snorton, III
Executive Director

Jonathan White
Chair

NEWS RELEASE

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MEDI presents awards and annual ceremony

Around 30 businesses along with education, business and government representatives met at the James E. Bruce Convention Center on Thursday night for the 23rd annual Minority Economic Development Initiative of Western Kentucky awards banquet. After dinner, awards were presented to individuals associated with MEDI who have had an impact on the local community and represented a “testament” to minority owned businesses.

Daisy Aviles won the Emerging Business of the Year award for her work teaching children Spanish over the past two years. Aviles said she would not have gotten where she was without MEDI and wants to expand her business at the Hopkinsville Child Development Center. The HCDC currently has eight staff members and 57 children enrolled. There are 20 children on a waiting list. It is the second largest Head Start program in Hopkinsville.

George V. Sholar III, of Cadiz, won the Advocate of the Year award for his work with the Friends of Cherokee State Historic Park. Sholar has been working with the park since 2004. Recently, he was able to claim \$600,000 for the park out of \$2 million earmarked for the Kentucky Horse Park.

Ronnie Catlett was presented the award for Minority Business of the Year for Catlett Asphalt Ceiling and Pavement. Catlett said the award will encourage him to continue working hard and serving customers.

Gae Broadwater accepted the award for Business Advocate of the Year on behalf of The Kentucky State University Land Grant.

The speaker for the night was Craigie Sanders of K & L Gates. In his speech, Sanders focused on the characteristics of a leader.

White transparent sheets were draped through rafters in the low-lit room. Tables outfitted with black table clothes and three lit candles seated groups of eight. Entertainment was provided by the Julius Fisher & The Genius Band who played a combination of jazz and light rock classics.

During the ceremony, much time was given to thanking and applauding groups, sponsors and individuals. At the end of the ceremony, Mayor Dan Kemp gave a surprise award to Snorton in recognition of Snorton becoming a certified economic developer. In his acceptance speech, Snorton said when he was younger he wanted to work on Wall Street. However, Snorton said he was called to “Go back and help rebuild my community.”

To Snorton, minority economic development is an important part of an overall economic picture. “It’s my community progressing and growing, which is why I am here,” said Henry Snorton III, executive director of MEDI. MEDI originated 23 years ago and helps the entrepreneurial endeavors of local minorities and women. The award ceremony marks the end of a weeklong event which included a golf scramble, a local rendition of Family Feud, and other promotional events aimed at additional sponsorship for MEDI.

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