

LEXINGTON



VENTURE CLUB

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Lexington Area Early-Stage Companies Attract \$65 Million in Venture Funding

LEXINGTON, Ky. (Jan. 25, 2011)– Entrepreneurial companies in the Bluegrass Region attracted \$65 million in venture funding, including angel and venture capital investments, in 2010, according to the annual survey by the Lexington Venture Club. The 89 Central Kentucky early-stage companies that participated in the survey reported a total \$94 million in revenue and 748 people employed with an average full-time salary of \$63,485. These companies hired 240 people for newly created jobs in 2010.

“It was another remarkable year for early-stage companies in the Bluegrass,” said UK President Lee T. Todd Jr. “I applaud the entrepreneurs in our community who dare to do something new – to do something different. And I thank those who provided funding to these entrepreneurs, as strategic investment holds the key to creating a thriving high-tech economy.”

Venture funding rose 38% over 2009 and is at an all time high since the first Lexington Venture Club survey in 2003. In the past eight years, \$300 million in early-stage capital has been raised by these Lexington area companies. Early stage funding not only comes from angel investors

and venture capital firms, but also from founders, friends and family; federal funds including SBIR and STTRs; Kentucky state funds; and from strategic partners.

A total of 465 technology jobs have been created in the Bluegrass Region in the last five years. The employment total of 748 reported for 2010 represents 537 full-time and 211 part-time jobs. The full-time average salary is \$63,485.

“The Lexington Venture Club is proud to work with entrepreneurial companies in Central Kentucky that are creating quality, high paying jobs,” said Bob Quick, President and CEO of Commerce Lexington Inc. “These companies are strengthening Lexington’s high-tech sectors and we’re impressed each year by their growth. They truly are rocks stars in our community!”

The majority of the companies participating in the survey are in the biotechnology and healthcare, advanced manufacturing, IT and software, and energy and biomass sectors.

The Lexington Venture Club will release the annual survey results at an event today at Buster’s Billiards & Backroom on Manchester Street. The keynote speaker will be Jeri Smith., president and founder of Galmont Consulting. Ms. Smith, a UK alumnus, announced last year that she will locate a new software testing center in Lexington, create 90 jobs, and form a partnership with UK’s College of Engineering to hire and train computer science graduates.

The event will be hosted by Bob Quick, President and CEO of Commerce Lexington, and include remarks from UK President Lee T. Todd Jr. and Mayor Jim Gray.

The Lexington Venture Club was founded in 2002 by Commerce Lexington and the University of Kentucky Von Allmen Center for Entrepreneurship and Lexington Innovation & Commercialization Center in the UK Office for Commercialization & Economic Development, to bring entrepreneurs, investors and service providers together to share new business opportunities. Survey results are available at www.lexingtonventureclub.com.

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