

Telecommunications Systems Management Alumni Spotlight

Name: Wes Kerr, '05

MSU Degree: B.S., Wireless and Information Security Options

Home Town: Henderson, KY
Current Town: Bowling Green, KY

Current Job: Manager of Provider Relations,
Connected Nation Inc.



Current Job Description:

As Manager, Provider Relations, Wes is responsible for outreach to, and data collection from, certain state, multi-state, regional, and national broadband providers. In this role, Wes develops and maintains in-depth working relationships with all providers, creating an atmosphere of cooperation for those providers among all state programs. Additionally, Wes is called upon to be the active voice among the organization regarding the activities and concerns of the provider community.

Previous Jobs held (since graduation):

- Senior Manager, GIS, Connected Nation, Inc.
- Manager of Research and Mapping, Connected Nation, Inc.
- Technology Analyst, Connect Kentucky

Family & Personal:

Wes is married to Melody Kerr, Murray State '06 with a degree in elementary education. They have 2 beautiful daughters. Wes is actively involved in his church and their college-aged ministry. Wes is also actively involved in corporate philanthropy, which seeks to help and serve charitable organizations. Additionally, Wes is a member of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels.

TSM Q & A:

1. What did you do for your internship and how did it benefit you?

Henderson County (KY) Agricultural Extension Service

I worked for a local Agriculture Extension Agency, as a Technology Intern. It was certainly different than most of the internships that students had at the time, however it allowed me to go into an environment where telecommunications and technology were at best afterthoughts. It gave me experience working with people who had very little knowledge of various technologies and helped them review how technology and telecommunications could be implemented in meaningful ways.

2. Since graduation, what is the most exciting thing you have been

able to experience in your work?

It's been exciting watching the Broadband Data collection industry grow from its infancy into a big business, and to see how the opinion of its importance in our nation has changed in that time.

3. What class(es) were the most beneficial to your career so far?

I'll not specify that any one class has been most important, however I'll say that the business block of classes have benefited me as I work with large corporations who's biggest concern is always how the bottom line will be impacted by particular actions. I'd also say that with the growth in the wireless industry over the past several years the foundation in wireless that I developed at Murray State has made it easy for me to be effective communicating and working with the many players in that field.

4. What activities outside your classwork were most valuable to your career?

Getting to know my professors on a one to one basis and taking advantage of the opportunities that were afforded to me to visit with Telecommunications Companies / Representatives, much of which was facilitated through CTSM.

5. What is one piece of advice that you would give to current or future TSM students?

Working with some of the "Big Name" companies in the country, it's very clear that they are looking for well educated, well rounded employees who can fill management and executive positions in the years to come. Taking advantage of the business side of the TSM program will directly impact the opportunities that become available as you look to advance your career post-graduation.



Wes Kerr and his beautiful family on a recent Florida vacation.



For more information on Murray State University's Telecommunication Systems Management Program visit us on the web at www.murraystate.edu/tsm, on Twitter at [@MurraystateTSM](https://twitter.com/MurraystateTSM) or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/MurrayStateTSM> or call us at 270.809.3987