April 23, 2010 (Murray, Ky)—The Murray State University (MSU) Office of Regional Stewardship & Outreach hosted an End-of-the-Year Banquet on Tuesday, April 20 to highlight the project work from the previous academic year. Over 16,000 people in the west Kentucky region were positively impacted by Regional Stewardship projects, which were executed by its partnerships with various MSU academic units and community organizations.

In attendance at the banquet were MSU administration, faculty, and staff, the Regional Stewardship & Outreach Advisory Council, and community members who were a part of outreach events this year. Projects included: The Cultural Awareness Series; Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM) initiatives; the Superintendent Leadership Academy; New Principals’ Mentor Program; Center for Entrepreneurship; Picturing America; Project Access; and the Graduate Kentucky Summit.

New Advisory Council members Sean Mestan, of Caldwell County, and Diane-Croney-Turner, of Christian County, received their formal welcome at the banquet, as their predecessors will be retiring from the council this year.

Sean Mestan, a MSU graduate, focuses his work on education, business, and community service. Mestan taught in public education for many years and continues in that capacity in an adult education environment. Sean not only worked for Akridge Farm Supply, one of the most successful family-owned businesses in the area, he now owns and operates a successful
consignment store in downtown Princeton with his wife BB. Finally, his commitment to community service is a testament to his concern for the future of Caldwell County, the surrounding areas, and the great State of Kentucky. Mestan is currently campaigning for the Judge Executive position in his county.

Diane Croney-Turner, a Hopkinsville native, has served as finance director with Pennyrile Allied Community Services, Inc. for 35 years. She is a graduate of both Hopkinsville Community College, with an Associate’s Degree in Applied Science, and Trevecca Nazarene University, earning a B.A. in Management and Human Relations.

Croney-Turner serves as president of the Kentucky Federation of Business and Professional Women’s Clubs, Inc. where her term will expire in June 2010. She is a board member and treasurer of the Hopkinsville/Christian County Crime Stoppers, Inc., Pennyroyal Area Museum, and Focus 21st Century Minority Leadership. She is also a member of the Christian County Revolving Loan Fund Committee and BB&T Hopkinsville Advisory Board. She will serve as Kentucky Federation of Business and Professional Women’s Clubs, Inc. 2010-2011 treasurer and West Region treasurer. She also volunteers for Take Kids Fishing and Nature Fest at the Jeffers Bend Environmental Center.

In the Advisory Council meeting following the banquet, elections were held for the Chair and two Vice-chair positions. Current Chair Greg Pruitt of Hickman County was reelected and will continue to serve in this capacity until the end of academic year 2010-11. Chris Sutton of Lyon County was also reelected to Vice-chair, while John Rufli of Trigg County was elected to the second Vice-chair position.