



**For Immediate Release**

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**Southern Growth Policies Board Names  
EntrePaducah®  
2010 Innovator Award Winner from Kentucky**

**RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC** – Southern Growth Policies Board is pleased to announce **EntrePaducah®** as the recipient of its *2010 Innovator Award from Kentucky*. **EntrePaducah**, which serves as a central source for small business and entrepreneurial development in the Paducah/McCracken County, Kentucky area, was first envisioned by a group of civic and community leaders that came together as a think tank committee in 2007 to identify strengths and weaknesses in the local economic development effort. There was a sense of urgency to this undertaking, in that the area was facing the eventual closing of one of the community's largest employers—even before the full force of the recession. The committee's findings revealed existing strengths in industrial recruitment and business advocacy, but a splintered approach to small business and entrepreneurial development. With those findings as the focus, the think tank was transformed into a working committee that conceived and launched **EntrePaducah**. **EntrePaducah** has quickly become known as the starting place for small business endeavors in the area. Staff serve clients by offering free counseling on everything from business plans to regulatory issues to marketing strategies. **EntrePaducah's** mission also includes development of a local venture capital fund; a network of mentors to assist entrepreneurs; and a culture change initiative to make entrepreneurship a more widely-accepted career option for future generations. **EntrePaducah** has also stepped in to address new needs resulting from the recession, including assisting established small businesses seeking help and offering entrepreneurial counseling to workers facing layoffs.

Innovator Awards are presented annually to one organization in each of Southern Growth's 13 member states in recognition of initiatives that are improving economic opportunities and quality of life in the region. The *2010 Innovator Awards* were chosen from creative initiatives in the region that aim to help communities recover from the recession. One award winner per week will be announced in Southern Growth's e-newsletter, Southern Compass, leading up to an official recognition of all awardees at [\*\*Southern Growth's Chairman's Conference, June 7-8, 2010 in Lexington, Kentucky\*\*](#). For more information on Southern Growth's Innovator Awards program or Chairman's Conference, contact Ted Abernathy, Executive Director, Southern Growth Policies Board, at (919) 941-5145 or [tabernathy@southern.org](mailto:tabernathy@southern.org).

**About Southern Growth Policies Board**

Southern Growth Policies Board is a regional public policy think tank based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Formed by the region's governors in 1971, Southern Growth Policies Board develops and advances visionary economic development policies by providing a forum for collaboration among a diverse cross-section of the region's governors, legislators, business and academic leaders and the

economic and community development sectors. Southern Growth provides its members, and the region, with authoritative research, discussion forums and pilot projects in the areas of technology and innovation, globalization, workforce development, community development, civic engagement and leadership. To learn more about Southern Growth Policies Board, visit [www.southern.org](http://www.southern.org).