

THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN CREATING AND SUSTAINING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STATEWIDE

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Presentation Summary (limited to 200 words)

Universities typically support personnel and resources dedicated to promoting innovation and economic development in the city where the university resides. However, many SEC universities strive to meet the Land Grant University (LGU) mission, which is to provide research, teaching and outreach across the entire state. One of the ways the University of Kentucky (UK) meets the LGU mission is through Cooperative Extension located in all of Kentucky's 120 counties. UK's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CAFE) is home to a state-wide integrated research and extension center dedicated to economic development throughout the state. CEDIK's (Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky) mission is to create vibrant economies through partnerships with local extension offices as well as non-UK entities including economic development professionals, planning agencies, elected officials, state and local government, healthcare, education, and workforce development agencies, etc. CAFE invested in CEDIK during budget woes even when the outcomes from such an investment were uncertain. Five years later, UK is a known entity for supporting local and regional economic development planning and is a trusted and reliable partner across the state.