

News from  
**National College**



Weekly updates from  
National's 26 communities  
in Virginia, Kentucky,  
Tennessee, Ohio, and  
Indiana.

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## PIKEVILLE

### Nurturing Young Leaders

Pikeville Career Center Director **Ryan Stratton** recently attended a Young Professionals of East Kentucky (YPEK) forum that featured Congressman Harold Rogers of Kentucky's 5th Congressional District and former Governor Paul E. Patton. The event centered on professional leadership in the East Kentucky community and the potential impact of YPEK in the region.



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Governor Patton and Congressman Rogers commented on the tremendous talent that they had seen at the forum and felt reassured of our region's future. "These types of organizations are important in developing crucial leadership skills in other areas of one's life, be that personal or professional," said Patton. Congressman Rogers said, "I want to commend the work of this organization and challenge all of you to find your causes and stick with them. I will thank you, and your region will thank you," commented Congressman Rogers.

Ryan is one of the founding members of YPEK and is currently serving on the board. He feels that the organization "serves as an opportunity for young professionals to grow, connect, and lead." Ryan went on to say, "When we started the [YPEK], we wanted to correct the notion that a young person had to leave our area to start their career, rather we wanted to connect with other young professionals that decided to stay here and start their career or business." Ryan encourages National College graduates and students to attend YPEK events and consider joining the organization. For more information or to join this organization for free, log onto [www.ypek.org](http://www.ypek.org).

*Ryan is pictured in the center with Governor Paul E. Patton (right) and Representative Harold Rogers (left).*