



Back Row (Left to Right): Andy Tolliver-Raceland-Worthington Independent, Lucas Phelps-Marshall County, Robert (Rocky) Sears-Caldwell County, Steven Cole-Boyd County, Russ Cole-Boyd County, Tommy Burns-Lawrence County and Jason Bean-Allen County.

Middle Row: Erin Eagleson-Trigg County, Dean Hughes-Dataseam, Casey Waddell-Elliott County, Robert Evans-Russell Independent, Kim Dearing-Greenup County, Jason Lamb-Jackson County, Greta Casto-Russell Independent, and Mike Muncy-Martin County.

Front Row: Brian Gupton-Dataseam, William Cole-Morehead State University, Michael Kessinger-Martin County, Phillip Coffee-Greenup County and Bryan Martin-Caldwell County.

## Technology Leaders Test Their Skills

West Liberty, KY – Twenty school technology specialists from across the state gathered for a weeklong certification training session last week at the MSU Regional Enterprise Center. In addition to over thirty hours of training, they spent four hours completing the tests to earn advanced certification on equipment and software to better manage computer systems in their schools.

Representatives from Martin, Allen, Caldwell, Greenup, Marshall, Lawrence, Trigg, Jackson, Elliott and Boyd counties, Morehead State University, Raceland-Worthington and Russell Independent participated in the workshop sponsored by Kentucky Dataseam. In addition to operating a large state-wide computing grid for advanced research, Dataseam helps teachers and technology specialists in participating districts to better utilize computers in their schools.

According to Brian Gupton, Kentucky Dataseam Executive Director, "With the help of Apple, Nortel and Morehead State University we are able to bring a unique training program here so more of our local technology professionals can improve their skills and value to their school districts. Based on response from this first session, we expect another 50-70 people to take advantage of this certification over the next few months."

"This was a great opportunity to achieve professional certification on this technology," said District Technology Coordinator for Boyd County Schools, Russ Cole. "Normally school districts can't afford to send individuals to this level of training, but the fact it was close to home and condensed in one week made this a manageable way to make this happen."

Dataseam has installed over 5,000 computers in area coal county schools and expects to provide another 2,500 this year. The Kentucky Legislature supports the program with coal severance funding through the Department of Commercialization and Innovation (DCI) within the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development and the Kentucky Department of Education in an effort to produce new technologies, high tech jobs and increase the attractiveness of Kentucky's workforce to high tech companies.

"A trained and ready high-tech workforce will play a key role in Kentucky's future," said DCI Commissioner Deborah Clayton. "This type of training and certification is helping develop a capable, in-place workforce that will encourage more technology-based businesses to consider locating or expanding here in Kentucky."