FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Murray, KY—Murray State University faculty, staff, and students attended the 4th annual 2009 KY Engagement Conference at the Northern KY University METS Center for Corporate Learning in Erlanger, KY on November 20.

At this conference, attendees, comprised primarily of educators, had the opportunity to learn about various subjects, including the use of social media to enhance civic learning, new data collection technologies to improve activity documentation and student portfolios, and advice from journal editors on ways to get a work published.

There were several reputable speakers present at the conference to offer their insight on the many topics discussed. The key-note speakers were Dr. Caryn McTighe Musil, Senior Vice President at the Association of American Colleges and Universities; Terry W. Hartle, Senior Vice President of the Division of Government and Public Affairs at the American Council on Education; Paul Patton, former Governor of KY; Dr. Robert L. King, president of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education; Secretary of State Trey Grayson; and Bill Goodman, editor of KET’s Kentucky Tonight.

In fact, four of the 13 Murray State representatives who attended were asked to speak at the conference. MSU’s Office of Regional Stewardship and Outreach Executive Director Gina
Winchester and Projects Specialist Amber Roach discussed their service and civic engagement work in west KY; Dr. Roger Weis engaged in an interactive panel to discuss overcoming barriers such as legal liability, workload, and funding; and Suzy Cook with Big Brothers Big Sisters of west Kentucky shared her experiences with students in her agency.

The conference gave several examples of high-quality professional development in Kentucky. By focusing on what educators can do to increase service learning, civic participation, and civic skills of students, the conference served to help attendees become, as the theme said, *Engaged to be Educated.*