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### **ENTREPRENEURIAL LECTURE SERIES TO BE OFFERED ACROSS 13 COUNTIES**

#### **Southern Middle Tennessee Entrepreneur Centers Brings Start-Up Expertise to Rural Tennessee**

Tullahoma, TENN. – In honor of Global Entrepreneurship Week, the Southern Middle Tennessee Entrepreneur Centers (SMTEC) is pleased to announce the launch of the Entrepreneurial Lecture Series to be held throughout 13 counties next year.

“Global Entrepreneurship week is about celebrating and supporting the innovators who create jobs and bring new ideas to life,” said Dan Marcum, SMTEC Executive Director. “Southern middle Tennessee is home to many aspiring innovators and entrepreneurs. Our goal is to provide them the resources they need to be successful, and to that end, we are excited to offer this lecture series across the region.”

SMTEC is one of nine regional entrepreneurial accelerators that have been established throughout Tennessee to assist entrepreneurs. SMTEC concluded its inaugural autoXLR8R boot camp this past summer focusing on new technologies with applications in the automotive industry. The program brought together world renowned experts to advise the companies on developing their technologies and refining their business plans.

The SMTEC Entrepreneurial Lecture series will build on this foundation of expertise, offering learning sessions and access to resources and to innovators in various industry sectors across the region.

Lectures will be held throughout 13 counties in southern middle Tennessee and will center on topics such as the business model canvas, mind the investor, go-to-market strategy, market validation and accounting for start-ups.

The series is presented in alliance with the Tennessee Board of Regents community colleges in southern middle Tennessee, which include Motlow State and Columbia State Community Colleges and the Colleges of Applied Technology.

“Columbia State is excited to offer opportunities for entrepreneurs to learn best practices from SMTEC’s arsenal of renowned experts,” said Dr. Janet Smith, President of Columbia State Community College. “The SMTEC Entrepreneurial Lecture Series will provide those with the motivation and desire to launch their own venture with the tools they need to succeed.”

The Don Sundquist Center of Advanced Technologies at Motlow State and The Columbia State Clifton campus in Wayne County are both home to SMTEC satellite centers.

“The entrepreneurial spirit has been spreading in Wayne County over the past several years,” said Jason Rich, Wayne County Mayor. “An increasing number of people are preferring to go out on their own in this new economy. We are excited to be able to support entrepreneurs in Wayne County by offering them access to the top experts assembled by SMTEC and Dan Marcum’s team.”

In Franklin County lectures will take place at the Franklin County Business Development Center.

“The Franklin County Business Development Center embodies the new start-up culture that has been adopted in our community,” said Franklin County Mayor Richard Stewart. “Open less than 12 months, the center is home to five companies. We are excited to host part of the lecture series at the center to continue to offer more resources to our local entrepreneurs.”

The lecture series is presented with sponsorship from NEST-TN, a seed and early-stage venture capital firm based in Tullahoma. NEST-TN is part of the state’s TNInvestco program which uses tax credits to invest in Tennessee’s most promising young companies.

The series will target entrepreneurs in Bedford, Coffee, Franklin, Giles, Hickman, Lawrence, Lincoln, Lewis, Marshall, Maury, Moore, Perry, and Wayne counties.

**About the Southern Middle Tennessee Entrepreneur Centers (SMTEC)**

Southern Middle Tennessee Entrepreneur Centers is one of nine regional entrepreneurial accelerators that have been established throughout Tennessee to assist entrepreneurs. SMTEC provides mentoring, education and training, strategic and technical support, and assistance identifying sources of capital.

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