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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CROSS COUNTY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM BEGINS
Inaugural class of countywide program announced

WYNNE – Members of the inaugural class of Cross County’s new leadership program met for the first time Friday at East Arkansas Community College’s Adventure Training Center in Forrest City.

The class, which was developed by the Cross County Chamber of Commerce and its education and leadership committee, will meet a total of eight times from September thru April 2009. A graduation ceremony will honor the class for its accomplishments and will be held in May 2009.

“We are extremely excited about the Cross County Visionaries leadership program and the opportunity to make our current leaders more effective and to develop future leaders,” said Joy Shepherd, chamber president.

The Cross County Visionaries’ inaugural class will include Corbin Brown (sponsored by Cross County Farm Bureau); Dee Campbell; Terri Moody; Jessica King; Dr. Neall Jackson (sponsored by Puryear/Jackson Family Dentistry); Wrenyatta King (sponsored by CrossRidge Community Hospital); Lisa Jackson and Erin Baker (both sponsored by The First National Bank of Wynne); Kim Taylor (sponsored by Cross County Bank); Keri House (sponsored by the American Cancer Society); Keeli Smith (sponsored by the Cross County Veterinary Clinic); Carolyn Slaughter, Neysa Cahill; and Liz Patterson (sponsored by the City of Parkin).

“Local businesses really stepped up to the plate to help us make this program a reality,” said Aaron Stewart, executive director of the chamber. “Without their support, chamber or economic development programs such as the leadership course would not be possible. We also appreciate our county’s mayors – Paul Nichols, Billy Joe Proctor, Mike Wood and Charles Patterson for their help in promoting the program in their respective

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Leadership/2

communities.”

In addition to the sponsors listed in conjunction with the participants, Southern Care, Inc., provided a tuition sponsorship to help cover the costs associated with the program.

Title sponsors of the program are Entergy’s Teamwork Arkansas, Eakas Arkansas, Macroburst Technologies, Woodruff Electric Cooperative Corp., Cross County Bank, CrossRidge Community Hospital and The First National Bank of Wynne.

Members of the leadership program will receive instruction from the University of Arkansas’ Cooperative Extension Service. In addition, class members will also receive local updates on subject areas including health care, city and county government, education, economic development and agriculture while also touring county facilities of interest.

The March 2009 session of the class will feature a trip to Little Rock to visit the state capitol and other locations.

For more information on the chamber, visit www.crosscountychamber.com.

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