

Business Focus

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF COMMERCE LEXINGTON INC. | APRIL 2022 | VOLUME XXX, ISSUE IV

International Trip Features Greece

September 10-20, 2022



Photo of Oia courtesy of Collette

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Applications Available April 15th**

**Tampa-St. Petersburg, Florida
Leadership Visit is May 11-13**

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April 2022: Volume XXX, Issue IV

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development News Submitted by Gina Greathouse, Cheryl Klever, Falon McFarland & Katie Vandegrift

Commerce Lex., KCED Representatives Tour Vacant TRANE Facility

The Commerce Lexington economic development team works with our existing businesses to ensure they have the resources and support to be successful. There are times in which a company's growth path takes them to other markets, or their situation requires them to downsize. In 2021, TRANE Commercial Systems downsized operations in Lexington and vacated a 688k square foot industrial facility, a bittersweet moment and opportunity. Recently, our team coordinated efforts with Premier Development Partners to host the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development team. Our teams toured the facility to learn more about the "one of its kind" industrial building available for lease in Lexington. Additionally, we had an opportunity to update the Cabinet with information pertinent to local economic development endeavors in Lexington-Fayette County.



STAT OF THE MONTH: Lexington's Educated Workforce —>

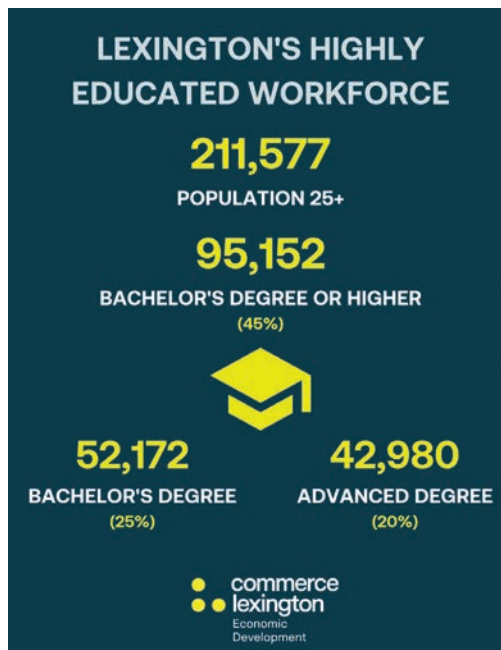
Building on its early reputation as the Athens of the West, Lexington continues to excel in education. There are 10 colleges and universities within 40 miles of Lexington that graduate more than 18,000 students annually. Among cities with a population of 300,000 or more, Lexington ranked as the 11th most highly educated place in the nation with 45% of its working age population holding at least a bachelor's degree. Additionally, the city ranked 10th in professional and/or graduate degrees with 20% of those 25 years or older.

INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS: Bourbon 101 With Ky. Distillers' Association

In February, Commerce Lexington was honored to host the Kentucky Distillers' Association (KDA) to learn about bourbon and how it impacts economic development in our region and state. The KDA is the first and only non-profit trade association dedicated to protecting Kentucky's legacy in Bourbon and sharing it with the world. Eric Gregory, President of the KDA, shared the history, current climate, and future initiatives about Kentucky's signature industry so our team could better understand its challenges and find ways to encourage opportunities for Lexington to capitalize in the market and make our city more competitive for capital investments to create jobs and increase tourism.

Water 101 With Kentucky American Water

Our economic development division understands the importance of infrastructure and how it supports Lexington's ability to attract companies and create jobs. Water, often overlooked, is a major component that influences a company's decision to locate in a particular city or region. Our team met with Kentucky American Water to learn about the water and wastewater systems in Central Kentucky. The informational session provided a high-level overview about Kentucky American Water, water supply and treatment capacity, wastewater treatment, water quality and infrastructure. Kentucky American Water invests approximately \$25 million annually in capital improvements to ensure the water they provide not only meets but surpasses what is required by state and federal drinking water standards.



BY THE NUMBERS:

For 2022 year-to-date (at press time of this issue), Commerce Lexington's Economic Development Division had responded to calls from:

NEW BUSINESS: 10 new prospects interested in finding a new location or expanding in the Lexington area.

CLIENT VISITS TO LEXINGTON AREA: 3

EXISTING BUSINESS VISITS: 22

EXISTING BUSINESS ATTEMPTS: 25

ACTIVE PROJECTS: 38



Local Officials Discuss Foreign Trade With Consulate General of Canada

Commerce Lexington's Gina Greathouse and Board of Directors from the World Trade Center of Kentucky met with Consulate General Joseph Comartin of Canada in early March. The meeting included a private luncheon to discuss the impacts of foreign trade between the two countries. Discussion topics addressed supply chain disruptions, the trucking blockade and finding solutions to streamline the automotive industry and other industries affected in recent years.

Leadership Lexington Economic Dev. Day

Leadership Lexington is a nationally recognized leadership development program designed to strengthen leadership and foster future leaders in our community. The program gives participants the opportunity to better understand our city and to prepare for the challenges it faces by listening and learning from today's leaders. This educational opportunity broadens participants' perspectives and allows them to gain increased understanding of community dynamics and public issues. In March, our team attended as guest speakers to discuss economic development and the necessary components that factor into economic development initiatives. This one-day event included a wage assessment activity to help class members better understand Lexington's average annual salary between a variety of market industries; followed by an economic development simulation. The purpose of the Economic Development Simulation is for each 'company' to choose the best 'community' for their economic development project, and for each 'community' to choose the best 'company' for their location.

Another proud Commerce Lexington member welcoming thousands of visitors to their business in the pages of TravelHost of the Bluegrass







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Kentucky General Assembly Enters Final Days of Regular Session

The 60-day Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly is entering the final days of legislative action. At the beginning of April, the session will be in the 10-day veto recess period (March 31-April 12). After the veto recess, lawmakers are scheduled to return for two days (April 13 and 14) to pass bills and override any Gubernatorial vetoes. More than 1,000 bills were filed this session but typically less than 10 percent of this legislation is expected to become law. During the 60-day session, passing the next two-year Executive Branch budget and allocating the transportation funding plan is the top priority for legislators. At the time of print, Commerce Lexington continues to advocate for several issues important to regional economic competitiveness, including increased funding for education, infrastructure and economic development in the budget, unemployment insurance reform (HB 4), state tax reform (HB 8), modernizing the local government tax structure (HB475/475), childcare assistance (HB 499), and bourbon industry competitiveness (HB 500).

The state budget is the ultimate policy document. This session, lawmakers are allocating record levels of state and federal funding to education, public safety, transportation, economic development, corrections, Medicaid and public employee pensions. Legislative leaders continued to negotiate differences in the House and Senate versions of the state's next two-year Executive Branch budget (HB 1) in a conference committee. Both budgets prioritize pay increases for

state workers, state police and social workers, increases in K-12 investments and funding for public universities and community colleges, more funding to critical infrastructure and economic development, fully funding the actuarial required payments to the state public pension systems, and placing significant funding aside in the state's Rainy Day Fund. Although many of the budget priorities align at a high-level, there are differences in key areas in terms of how dollars are allocated, and other funding priorities to advance the state economically, such as tourism marketing and site development for economic development projects.

Two bills focused on the state's unemployment insurance system are expected to become law. HB 4 modernizes the state's unemployment insurance system to align it with surrounding states. Key provisions in HB 4 include strengthening the work search requirements for claimants, indexing the maximum number of weeks a claimant can receive benefits to the statewide unemployment rate, reducing the three-year wait period to one year for a new employer to receive their experience rating, and authorizing a work share program to give employers an alternative to lay-offs. HB 144 freezes 2022 UI assessments for employers at the 2020 schedule to avoid significant increases. The bill saves employers approximately \$70 per employee by freezing the schedule rate this year. The bill also includes a Senate amendment appropriating \$242 million in funding

Continued on Page 13

Regional Leaders Gather for Central Kentucky Day at the Capitol

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Despite some icy road conditions on February 24, Central Kentucky business and community leaders met with key decision makers in Frankfort as part of the **Central Kentucky Legislative Day at the Capitol presented by Charter Communications**. The event provided an opportunity for advocacy and issue education for Commerce Lexington members. Attendees heard from Kentucky Senate President

Robert Stivers, Kentucky House Speaker David Osborne, Senate Appropriations and Revenue Chairman Chris McDaniel, House Local Government Committee Chairman Michael Meredith, Kentucky Transportation Secretary Jim Gray and Rocky Adkins, Senior Advisor to Governor Andy Beshear. A legislative luncheon was also provided for all members of the General Assembly.



House Speaker David Osborne



Senator Chris McDaniel



Rep. Michael Meredith



<< LEFT TO RIGHT:
Senate President Robert Stivers;
Transportation Secretary Jim
Gray; and Rocky Adkins, Senior
Advisor to Governor Andy
Beshear. (Photos by Commerce
Lexington Staff)



EMERGE 2022 Featured Great Speakers, Networking & Learning

Nearly 300 people enjoyed the **2022 EMERGE Conference presented by Forcht Bank** on March 8th at Central Bank Center. The full day professional development event featured great speakers, breakout sessions, networking, and learning opportunities. Keynote speakers included Chris Clews, a speaker and author of the book series *What 80's Pop Culture Teaches Us About Today's Workplace*, and Colene Elridge (aka Coach Colene), the CEO of Be More Consulting and founder of the EmpowHer Conference.

A variety of breakout sessions covered topics such as personal branding, innovation, cryptocurrency, stress management, neighborhood development, goal setting, the art of debate, and more. Thank you to everyone who attended, sponsored, volunteered, helped plan a session, or presented during the conference. Your involvement has built EMERGE into a quality, award-winning event that has now expanded to a full year of programming through the Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass.



Table discussion during EMERGE.



Larry Forester (Forcht Bank)



Lyle Hanna (Hanna Resource Group)



Chris Clews



Colene Elridge



Glenn Lundy

Photos by Mark Mahan,
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Great Programming Continues for Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass

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The Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass program **presented by Keeneland** is a comprehensive initiative that helps emerging leaders expand their capacity to perform in leadership roles within Central Kentucky through professional development, networking, mentoring and community education opportunities.

Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass gathered for a panel discussion on Feb. 17 featuring nonprofit leaders who just happen to be emerging leaders. Moderated by Timothy Johnson, President & CEO of United Way of the Bluegrass, the panel (**pictured at right**) included Chaquenta Neal, Executive Director of FoodChain, Tony Higgins, President/CEO Opportunity for Work & Learning, and Lori Clemons, Executive Director at Arbor Youth Services. Attendees learned about the nonprofit leaders' varying challenges and opportunities, especially in light of the pandemic with many of them new to their leadership roles.



- Meet with a Keeneland BETologist and learn how to place a winning bet!
- Place a bet with a \$2 betting voucher.

To learn more about Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass, visit www.emergingleadersbg.com.

Upcoming 2022 Kickoff Event:

Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass annual passholders will kickoff a new year of programming with a day at the races at Keeneland on April 21st. Passholders will be able to register for this exclusive event which will include:

- An afternoon of racing in the historic Keeneland Clubhouse.
- Learn behind-the-scenes insight and the economic impact of the Race Meet from Keeneland's Dean Roethemeier.
- Go on a tour of the grounds with a Keeneland tour guide.
- Receive a \$20 food voucher and program.

Join the Emerging Leaders of the BG Steering Committee

The Steering Committee for Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass offers a unique opportunity for up-and-comers in your organization and the community to take on a volunteer service role as they work with Commerce Lexington to plan and execute programming. The commitment includes attending full committee meetings, which generally fall twice a year and participation on one of the sub-committees. If interested, please contact Amy Stout at astout@commercelexington.com.

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Lunch Keynote
Pamela Brown

CNN Anchor & Sr. Washington Correspondent
Lexington native, daughter of
Gov. John Y. Brown and Phyllis George Brown



Morning Keynote
Elle Smith

Miss USA, UK Graduate &
former WHA511 TV reporter

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— Afternoon Panel —

Karen Harbin
Commonwealth Credit Union

Kathy Love
St. Joseph East

Tawanda Owsley
Hospirus Health

Jenny Warnick
Big Ass Fans



'TIL THE BATTLE IS WON

It's a tradition like no other at the University of Kentucky.

DanceBlue – UK's largest student-run philanthropy is a yearlong fundraising effort involving thousands of UK students, culminating in a 24-hour no-sitting, no-sleeping dance marathon. Since the organization's launch in 2006, DanceBlue has raised more than \$19,743,656 for the kids.

The money raised through DanceBlue is donated to the Golden Matrix Fund, established to support the kids of the DanceBlue Kentucky Children's Hospital Hematology/Oncology Clinic both today and well into the future through an endowment. DanceBlue funds also support the yearlong fundraising engine and operations that underpin the mission, as well as providing funds to support research at UK's Markey Cancer Center.

Learn more about DanceBlue and how you can support their efforts at DanceBlue.org.

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EVENTS

An Evening With Commerce Lexington is Wednesday, April 6th

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An Evening With Commerce Lexington presented by Fifth Third Bank will take on a Springtime feel when we host this premier networking and community recognition gathering on **Wednesday, April 6**, from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Central Bank Center. We'll celebrate the regional business community, recognize a few people who were instrumental in the success of our organization, and set the stage for going forward.

We are so pleased that a new tradition and format for this annual event has taken hold. Participants will enjoy great music, food and drink, a brief program, and of course connecting with other business professionals and colleagues inside the newly-renovated convention center in the heart of downtown Lexington.

Thank you to our sponsors and members for continuing to be flexible as we navigate the ongoing pandemic, adapt and adjust to new formats, and work to provide you with quality and effective events to meet your needs.

TO REGISTER:

The cost to attend this Commerce Lexington members' only event is \$159 per person or \$1,272 for reserved seating for eight. Register on-line at www.commercelexington.com/an-evening-with-commerce-lexington.html.

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2022 Tampa-St. Petersburg Leadership Visit is Set for May 11-13

Commerce Lexington's 2022 **Leadership Visit presented by Central Bank & Trust Co.** will take Central Kentucky leaders to the Tampa-St. Petersburg, Florida region, **May 11 – 13**. The delegation will depart Lexington via charter air on Wednesday morning, May 11. We'll spend opening day in Tampa before we travel to St. Petersburg to get a solid understanding of these two communities. Each have unique identities but together they're known for a resurgent economy, a supportive business environment, a highly diverse talent pool, low cost of living and high quality of life. The group will return to Lexington by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 13.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Full registration includes charter air travel, meals as outlined in the agenda, and two

nights' accommodations at the Don CeSar Hotel in St. Pete Beach (3400 Gulf Boulevard, www.doncesar.com), the crown jewel of Florida's Gulf Coast. For registration options, visit www.commercelexington.com/tampa-st-petersburg-2022.html.

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EVENTS



Photo of Oia courtesy of Collette

2022 International Trip Features Greece Island Hopper Adventure

Since 2011, Commerce Lexington has offered an international group travel opportunity to places like China, Cuba, Egypt, Croatia, Dubai, and more. This year, we are pleased to announce that the 2022 International Trip will take Central Kentuckians to Greece from **September 10-20, 2022** with our travel partner Collette. Greece is not only the southernmost country in Europe, but it also has longest coastline in Europe and fifth-longest in the world. You won't want to miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience Greece during this Island Hopper Adventure with visits to Athens, Mykonos, Santorini, Akrotiri, and Oia, with the availability of an optional three-night post-tour extension to Istanbul, Turkey.

The trip will begin in Athens, the capital of Greece, where you'll explore the city's historic district, indulge in the local cuisine with traditional Greek entertainment, take a panoramic tour with stops at the Temple of Zeus, the Parliament, Olympic Stadium, the Acropolis, the Parthenon, and more.

Next will be a high-speed boat ride to Mykonos, an island

paradise surrounded by the crystal-clear Aegean Sea. Once there, participants will experience wonderful sandy beaches, seaside cafes, the flavors of the Cycladic Islands during a tour of culinary gems, and an optional half-day excursion to the isle of Delos.

Then, it's on to Santorini to enjoy this Eden-like island with the blue-domed rooftops, gentle ocean waves, and picturesque landscape, as well as visits to Akrotiri, an ancient city buried and preserved in volcanic ash, and Oia, a seaside village. Participants will then set sail to the tiny islet of Nea Kameni, an uninhabited island formed on an active volcano. Later, you'll take the boat to Palea Kameni, where you can swim to the island's rejuvenating hot springs. The group will then fly back to Athens for one final night in Greece. **Note that the itinerary, tours and stops are subject to change.**

BOOK YOUR TRIP NOW:

The cost to join this 11-day group travel opportunity to Greece is \$5,399 per person for double, \$6,699 per person for single, and \$5,349 per person for triple. This early-bird cost is available to those who book their trip by April 11, 2022. **Included in the price:** Round Trip Air from J.F. Kennedy International, Inter-flights from Santorini Thira Is., air taxes and fees/surcharges, hotel transfers, and 14 total meals. Add \$100 to each rate for non-Commerce Lexington members. There is also an optional four-day, three-night post-tour extension to Istanbul for an additional \$999 per person double (land and air inclusive). To find out more or to book your trip, visit <https://gateway.collette.com/link/1075603>.

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LEGISLATIVE SESSION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

to the UI Trust Fund to help bring it back to pre-pandemic levels and avoid future year schedule changes/assessment increases on businesses.

Taking the next step to reform the state and local government tax code is another priority policy area under consideration. The House passed state tax reform legislation (HB 8) to continue to modernize Kentucky's state tax code and improve competitiveness with surrounding states that are lowering income taxes. HB 8 reduces the state's personal income tax from 5 percent to 4 percent beginning January 1, 2023. It does not change the corporate income tax rate (5 percent). The bill allows for future personal income tax rate reduction if General Fund tax receipts meet specific revenue thresholds. The goal is to eventually eliminate the state's personal

income tax over a four- to eight-year period. The bill also expands the list of services to which the state's six percent sales and use tax is applied. The Senate also advanced a tax refund proposal (SB 194 SCS 1). The bill provides a state income tax refund based on 2020 filings up to \$500 to individuals and \$1,000 to joint filers. The goal of the legislation is to help Kentuckians offset increased costs associated with inflation. HB 475 and HB 476 reform the local government taxing structure by removing the limiting tax language on local governments in the Kentucky Constitution and setting up the process for the General Assembly to come back in future sessions and create a new local taxing framework that provides more tax diversification options like a local sales tax.

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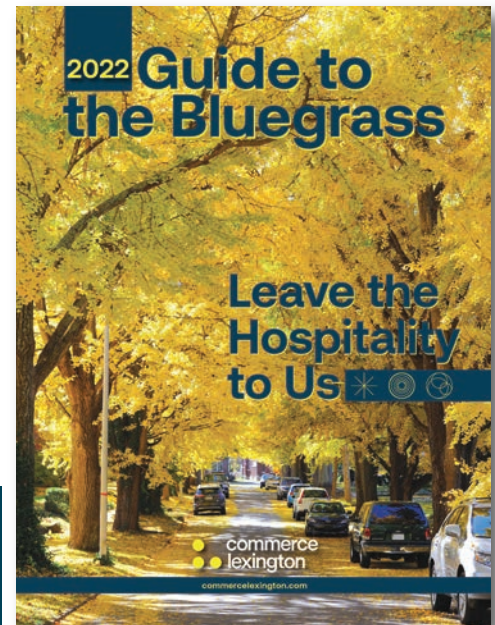
2022 Guide to the Bluegrass Newcomers' Publication Available

Commerce Lexington recently released its 2022 Guide to the Bluegrass publication for newcomers and visitors. This publication is focused on making a family's transition to the area an easier one. It contains overviews of the city, education options, hotels, things to do and major attractions, how to get around, shopping and dining opportunities, retirement communities, and a newcomer's guide that highlights how to set up your utilities, library branches, voter and auto registration, pet information, churches and much more! Free copies of the Guide to the Bluegrass are available to pick up at the Commerce Lexington offices (330 E. Main Street), or you can request a copy be mailed to you or a family member by e-mailing to mturner@commercelexington.com. The publication is also available on-line in a digital format at www.commercelexington.com/community.html.

THANK YOU 2022 GUIDE TO THE BG SUPPORTERS:

Buffalo Trace Distillery
Central Bank & Trust Co.
The Corman Marketplace
Fayette County Public Schools
Immanuel Baptist Church
The Lafayette
Lexington Christian Academy
Red Mile Gaming & Racing
Richmond Road Veterinary Clinic
Sayre School
State Farm Insurance/Debra Hensley

Access this publication at
[commercelexington.com/
community.html](http://commercelexington.com/community.html)



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Partnership Helps Small Businesses Reduce Health Insurance Costs

One of the key benefits of Commerce Lexington Inc. membership gives you access to cost-saving discounts, including the opportunity for substantial savings

on health insurance. Through our partnership with Humana HealthSolutions and our association health insurance plan, member companies with 2+ employees within eligible SIC Codes can realize significant savings on health insurance premiums.

You'll want to check with your insurance broker to see if your company's SIC code is eligible. You can find Commerce Lexington Humana agents listed at <https://web.commercelexington.com/Insurance-Humana-AgenciesAgents>.

Health Solutions

In addition to great savings, Humana also offers a multiline group discount for all chamber association group sizes and employers having 2 to 99 enrolled employees who purchase Humana medical, dental and vision benefits. When a Kentucky Chamber Association group purchases Humana medical, dental and vision plans, they'll receive a 2%* discount on their medical plan. So, now you can care for your employees and your bottom line.

CONTACT:

For additional information about association health insurance plans through the Commerce Lexington/Humana partnership, contact a Humana insurance agent or e-mail Kristie Woodrum for more information at kwoodrum@commercelexington.com.

Examples of Eligible Businesses Include:

- Mining, Construction, Manufacturing: Metal & Coal Mining, Building Construction, Food and Kindred Products, Textile Mill Products, Furniture and Fixture, Manufacturing Industries.
- Wholesale & Retail Trade: Wholesale Trade Goods, Building Materials, Hardware, Garden Supply, General Merchandise Stores, Food Stores, Apparel and Accessory Stores, Eating and Drinking Places.
- Services: Hotels, Campus and Other Lodging, Personal & Business Services, Automotive Repair, Motion Pictures, Health, Legal, Educational & Social Services, Membership Organizations, Engineering Account and related services.
- Finance Insurance & Real Estate: Insurance Carriers, Insurance Agents, Brokers and Service, Real Estate, Security and Commodity Brokers, Dealers, Exchanges, Depository Institutions.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING:

“We have had our health plan with Humana since 2015 and under the Commerce Lexington Humana plan since 2018. We have enjoyed premium savings by way of Go365 during this time, but I can say that the personal benefits for participating in Go365 are my favorite part of the wellness program. During the time my wife and I have used Go365 through Humana, we have redeemed approximately \$3,000 worth of gift cards and merchandise!”

- David Shaw
InsuranceWorks, Inc.

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Leadership Central Ky. Visits Scott County

PRESENTED BY



Recap by Lynn Godsey, BCTC
Georgetown-Scott County

It was a great day for the Leadership Central Kentucky class in Scott County! Our hosts for the day - Jack Conner, Executive Director of the Georgetown-Scott County Chamber of Commerce, and Kim Sweazy, Toyota Kentucky Corporate



Communications and External Affairs - arranged some thought-provoking discussions about education, workforce development, and leadership.

The day began at the Georgetown-Campus of Bluegrass Community and Technical College, located in Lane's Run Business Park. Dave Bugg, General Manager of Production Control with Toyota Kentucky, provided an overview of Toyota's operations in Scott County. LCK class members learned about an earn-and-learn program that got its start at BCTC and has now expanded into communities across the country. The program is the Advanced Manufacturing Technician (AMT) program.

The group's next stop was EcoFibre, where Mark Sunderland, Chief Innovation & Sustainability Officer for EcoFiber's Hemp Black division, shared the company's story of innovation and leadership in the hemp industry.

On the way to Elkhorn Crossing School (ECS), the class took a quick driving tour of the Toyota facility getting just a glimpse at the size of their operation in Scott County. The class enjoyed lunch at ECS along with student-led tours through their career-focused Villages in Law and Justice, Health Science, Biomedical Science, Media Arts, and Engineering. Following the tours, the Leadership Central Kentucky class met John Noll, ECS Principal, and Maria Lyons, ECS Counselor.

The class stayed at ECS for a session where they shared economic development ideas, challenges, and initiatives in their communities. The day ended with a trip to Country Boy Brewing where the class toured and met with CB Co-Founder/Co-Owner, Daniel Harrison (DH).

Read this full recap on-line at
www.leadershipcentralkentucky.com

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Leadership Lexington 2022-23 Applications Available April 15th

Applications for the 2022-23 Leadership Lexington program will become available on April 15 at www.leadershiplexington.com. This leadership development program is sponsored by Commerce Lexington and directed toward individuals who demonstrate leadership qualities. Since 1979, this popular program has been giving participants the opportunity to better understand our city and to prepare for the challenges it faces by meeting with and learning from our leaders.

Class members meet in different locations around the area each month from August through June with a major program topic covered by knowledgeable speakers and panels, tours, group activities, demonstrations, and class discussions. Sessions include topics covering government, education, public safety, economic development, arts, equine, diversity, health and

human services, and leadership development.

Leadership Lexington class members also participate in a class project, which is the crucible where individuals practice and apply leadership skills in a small-group experience, while working on a community project. They work with community leaders, gain in-depth understanding of community organizations and/or community needs and make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Completed **applications are due by Monday, May 16, 2022**. Residents and individuals who work in the Lexington area are eligible to apply. Applicants must be employed by firms that are active members of Commerce Lexington. Contact Amy Stout with questions at astout@commercelexington.com.

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Leadership Lexington 2021-22 class photo by Mark Mahan (Mahan Multimedia)

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT: Lindy Hester, The Foster Care Council

As the director of business development for The Foster Care Council, Lindy Hester is responsible for the development of strategies to help fundraise, as well as "friend raise," for the organization. She said, "I have enjoyed working with our community partners to increase visibility in our region and state which in turn has enabled us to raise the awareness and funding we need to expand our programming to support foster children in Kentucky."

A native of western Kentucky, Hester said she always knew that Lexington was where she wanted to be. "There's not a better place to live, work and raise a family," she added. "Our community is so very generous and has a reputation of working closely with nonprofits to ensure

that they are supported properly."

Lindy is a first-year Commerce Lexington Ambassador, but she said, "I am loving getting to know all the people in this fantastic group. We are all working together to ensure that members are utilizing all the tools available with their membership. I have had great calls with members whose enthusiasm is re-ignited when we discuss all the great opportunities offered to them with their membership."

Hester is deeply involved in the community, working to create partnerships that will help The Foster Care Council expand its mission to provide resources and programming for even more foster children in Kentucky.



LINDY HESTER

Ambassadors volunteer their time to assist with Commerce Lexington's member relations and retention efforts. The individuals on this important committee serve as a mentor to members and to help members make business connections. They also represent Commerce Lexington at community ribbon cutting and grand opening events. Find out more on-line at www.commercelexington.com/ambassador-program.html.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New Commerce Lexington Inc. Members From February 15 through March 17, 2022

A Caring Touch Pediatrics and International Adoptions

Physicians & Surgeons, Pediatrics
Main Contact: Mark Parrott
230 Fountain Court, Suite 260
Lexington, KY 40509
Phone: (859) 264-0660
www.actpeds.com

ACE Consulting

Consultants
Main Contact: Melinda Raymond
608 Keene Centre Drive
Nicholasville, KY 40356
Phone: (859) 305-0895
www.ace-consulting.net

Baldwin Engineering Corporation

Engineers
Main Contact: Robert Baldwin
116 South Highland Street
Winchester, KY 40391
Phone: (859) 744-6943

Belles Fleurs & Dessins

Florists
Main Contact: Iram Qazi
P.O. Box 22572, Lexington, KY 40522
Phone: (859) 559-5274
www.bellesfleursdessins.com

Bluegrass Can Shine

Pressure Washing
Main Contact: Chip Simmons
3712 Dearman Ct.
Lexington, KY 40509
Phone: (859) 321-8527
www.bluegrasscanshine.com

CivicLex

Non-Profit Organizations
Main Contact: Richard Young
141 East Main Street
Lexington, KY 40507
Phone: (859) 536-1334
www.CivicLex.org

CLC Lodging/FLEETCOR

Travel Management - Corporate
Main Contact: Taylor Young
3199 Beaumont Centre Circle
Lexington, KY 40513
Phone: (859) 300-5487
www.clclodging.com

Dr. Beth Holmes

Medical Services
Main Contact: Beth Holmes
2101 Nicholasville Rd., Ste 301
Lexington, KY 40503
Phone: (859) 278-0264

Dr. David Cowen, M.D.

Health Provider
Main Contact: Robin Hammond
771 Corporate Drive, Suite 460
Lexington, KY 40503
Phone: (859) 219-0299
www.davidcowenmd.com

Gallagher

Insurance
Main Contact: Ron Novak
1601 Alliant Ave.
Louisville, KY 40299
Phone: (479) 806-3168
www.ajg.com

IGI Group Consulting

Business Consultants
Main Contact: Jeff Baker
3316 Beaumont Centre Circle
Lexington, KY 40588
Phone: (425) 442-3991

Joe Bologna's Restaurant & Pizzeria

Restaurants
Main Contact: Joseph Bologna
120 W. Maxwell Street
Lexington, KY 40508
Phone: (859) 259-0495
www.joebolognas.com

Main Street Partners Insurance

Insurance
Main Contact: Jeff Runyan
130 Dudley Pike, Suite 120
Edgewood, KY 41017
Phone: (859) 759-2037
www.insmsp.com

Michel Real Estate Group, LLC

Real Estate Management
Main Contact: Jaime Michel
1056 Wellington Way, Ste 140
Lexington, KY 40513
Phone: (859) 687-9001

P&S Products Inc.

Retailers
Main Contact: Melanie Hatton
2407 Mackinwood Drive
Lexington, KY 40510
Phone: (859) 303-5722
www.tacticalintent.com

Parlor Doughnuts

Bakeries
Main Contact: Mandy Schaffner
630 Euclid Ave., Lexington, KY 40502
Phone: (859) 303-7827
www.parlordoughnuts.com

Prairie Capital Advisors

Investment Banking/Management Services
Main Contact: Tim Jamison
2517 Pascoli Place
Lexington, KY 40509
Phone: (502) 644-0777
www.prairiecap.com

Professional Expediting, Inc.

Transportation/Distribution/Logistics
Main Contact: Gregg Greer
424 Fairman Court
Lexington, KY 40511
Phone: (859) 277-7769
www.professionalexpediting.com

Prosper Media Group, Inc.

Video Production
Main Contact: Kyle Lake
348 E. Main Street
Lexington, KY 40507
Phone: (859) 400-0136
www.prospermediatv.com

Quality Inn

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Main Contact: Adam Routt
1938 Stanton Way
Lexington, KY 40511
Phone: (859) 413-2765
www.qualityinn.com/ky365

Unite Us

Technology Development
Main Contact: Kenyetta Pinkston
482 Dominican Dr.
Lexington, KY 40511
Phone: (859) 489-3420
www.uniteus.com

VanArsdale Technical Services, LLC

Engineering Services
Main Contact: Sho VanArsdale
5580 Athens Walnut Hill Pike
Lexington, KY 40515
Phone: (859) 619-4986

Wealth Armor Nubia Beckett

Financial Planning Consultants
Main Contact: Nubia Herrera Beckett
5103 Preston Hwy., Suite 5
Louisville, KY 40213
Phone: (562) 249-3844
https://agents.worldfinancialgroup.com/nubia-beckett

Make Valuable Connections at Commerce Lexington Member Mixer

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Making connections during a pandemic is challenging to say the least. Commerce Lexington's **Member Mixer events presented by MELIA Realty Group** provide an opportunity for participants to network virtually, introduce themselves and their businesses, and ask questions.

Commerce Lexington Inc. staff will update participants on upcoming member opportunities and ways to get the most from their membership. The next Member Mixer event is

scheduled for **Wednesday, April 13**, from 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. via Zoom.

TO REGISTER:

There is no cost to participate in this MEMBERS' ONLY event. Reserve your spot at **www.commercelexington.com**. After registering, attendees will receive log-in information in the event registration confirmation. Space is limited.

PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Corporate Moves, Company Awards and Notable Milestones



Founded in 1987, **Avant Travel Agency** recently marked 35 years of taking care of the area's travel needs. Avant was the Commerce Lexington Small Business of the Year in 1993 and later received the Salute to Small Business Legacy Award in 2018.

Blue Grass Airport has been selected as one of six recipients of the 2022 *Airport Business* Projects of the Year. *Airport Business*, a North American aviation publication, named Blue Grass Airport as the winner in the Airfield category for its \$16.2 million runway rehabilitation project managed by HDR Inc. The recognition program showcases major improvement projects undergone by airports throughout the year.

John Young has been named the new president of **Bluegrass Integrated Communications**, replacing **William "Bill" Nichols**, who will remain with the business as CEO. Nichols founded the company and led the day-to-day operations for 48 years.

Bluegrass Tomorrow recently welcomed eight new board members, including Morehead State University President **Jay Morgan**, Transylvania University President **Brien Lewis**, **Houston Hall** (Forcht Bank), **Dr. David Gilliam** (Madison County Schools), **Liz Hodge** (Lifestyl Real Estate/A Running Start), **David Duttlinger** (Bluegrass Area Development District), **Katherine Osborne** (Stantec), and **Sonia Sanders** (Kentucky State University). Two new Executive Committee members were also approved, including **Amy Samples** (AppHarvest) and **Jessica Berry** (YMCA of Central Kentucky).

Community Action Council for Lexington-Fayette, Bourbon, Harrison, and Nicholas Counties, Inc. recently announced new board officers, including **Denise Beatty** (Cabinet for Health and Family Services) as board chair, **Dr. Richard Heine** (Friedell Committee) as vice treasurer, **Michele C. Lee** (Lexington Housing Authority) as secretary, **Kimberly Baird** (assistant Commonwealth Attorney) as treasurer, and **Daniel Murphy** (University of Kentucky College of Law) as vice chairperson. In addition, **Patrice Muhammad** was named as communications manager for Community Action.

Dentons Bingham Greenebaum LLP: **Zachary Sterling** was promoted to managing associate.

Dickinson Wright PLLC recently received a score of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's 2022 Corporate Equality Index, the nation's foremost benchmarking survey and report measuring corporate policies and practices related to LGBTQ+ workplace equality. Dickinson Wright's efforts in satisfying all of the CEI's criteria also earned the firm the designation as one of the Best Places to Work for LGBTQ+ Equality.

Fifth Third Bank Kentucky announced that **Tiffani Jett** joined its leadership team as vice president, regional marketing manager.

Forcht Group of Kentucky has named **Reda Shemelya** as corporate human resources director.

Frontier Nursing University was ranked with the third-best Online Family Nurse Practitioner Master's Program according to rankings compiled and released by *U.S. News and World Report*. Metrics used to compile the rankings included engagement, faculty credentials and training, expert opinion, services and technologies, and student excellence.

GRW recently named seven new vice presidents, including **Eric Fister**, PE, PTOE, (transportation engineer); **Mike Jacobs**, PE, (water resources engineer); **Roger Kennedy**, ASLA, (landscape architect); **John Martin**, PE, (water resources engineer); **Aaron Nickerson**, AIA, CID, LEED Green Asc. (architect); **Roderick Saylor**, PE, (civil/site engineer); and **Cory Sharrard**, PE, LEED AP, (mechanical engineer).

Hallie Hardy has been named executive director of **Horse Country, Inc.**

Independence Bank welcomed four individuals to its Lexington location, including **Stacy Berge** as the Lexington Market President, **Chad Lashbrook** as vice president, senior commercial lender, **Mike Adams** as vice president, commercial loan officer, and **Ted Berge** as director, equine services.

Rusty Underwood was installed as the 2022 president of the **Lexington-Bluegrass Association of Realtors®** (LBAR). The remaining 2022 officers are president-elect **Kelley Nisbet** and treasurer **Randy Newsome**. Other 2022 Board of Directors include: **Sandy Allnutt**; **Rony Jo Ballou**; **Jonathan Bronaugh**; **Matt Coomer**; **Anne Hart Cornett**; **Anthony de Movellan**; **Gary Denton**; **Christina Dudek**; **Matt Ford**; **Kristy**

Gooch; **Todd Hyatt**; **Mike Inman**; **Ruby Mason**; **Tom Thomas**; and **Barry Turner**. LBAR also recently presented its highest awards for 2021. **Suzanne Elliott** (Berkshire Hathaway de Movellan Properties) was named Realtor® of the Year, while **Susie Basham** (The Agency) received the Good Neighbor Award.

The **Lexington Legends** announced the addition of **Whitney Penny** as organizational development director.

McBrayer PLLC announced the addition of **Alexander H. Gardner** as an associate and **Justin Thomas** as a billing clerk in its Lexington office.

NAI Isaac announced the promotion of **Melanie Johnson** to assistant vice president, brokerage operations administration, and **Lucy Houpp** to assistant vice president, property marketing.

Promo Assets recently welcomed three new interns for the Spring 2022 semester: **Chaney Willett**, **Victoria Smith** and **Delaney Schaefer**.

Rupp Arena at Central Bank Center was among the nominees for Arena of the Year at the 57th Academy of Country Music Awards held on March 7 at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas.

For the fourth consecutive year, **Saint Joseph Hospital** was named one of America's 250 Best Hospitals by Healthgrades, placing it in the top five percent of hospitals in the country and designating it an overall leader in clinical excellence. The facility is one of only three in Kentucky on the 2022 list.

Stites & Harbison, PLLC announced the addition of three new attorneys to its Lexington office, including **Shea Luna** as counsel, and **Drake W. Staples**.

Traditional Bank announced that **Graham McCormick** was promoted to commercial lender in the bank's Lexington market.

SUBMIT PERSONNEL NEWS:

Submit your company's awards, personnel changes, additions, or promotions for Business Focus to mturmer@CommerceLexington.com. Information is published in the order received and as space permits.



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COMMERCE LEXINGTON CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 2022:

- 6** **An Evening With Commerce Lexington presented by Fifth Third Bank**, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., at Central Bank Center.
- SEE PAGE 10
- 13** **Member Mixer presented by MELIA Realty Group**, 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. via Zoom.
- SEE PAGE 18
- 14** **Leadership Lexington presented by McBrayer PLLC**: Diversity Day Session.
- 15** **Applications become available for 2022-23 Leadership Lexington program**.
- SEE PAGE 17
- 20** **Leadership Central Kentucky presented by LG&E & KU** at Clark County.

MAY 2022:

- 2** **Applications open up for 2022-23 Leadership Central Kentucky**. Visit www.leadershipcentralkentucky.com.
- 11-13** **Leadership Visit to Tampa-St. Petersburg, FL presented by Central Bank & Trust Co.**
- SEE PAGE 11
- 12** **Leadership Lexington presented by McBrayer PLLC**: Equine Day Session.
- 16** **Deadline to submit applications for 2022-23 Leadership Lexington program**.
- SEE PAGE 17
- 17** **@330 Series presented by Lexington Event Company**, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

JUNE 2022:

- 9** **Member Mixer presented by MELIA Realty Group**, 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. via Zoom.
- 9** **Leadership Lexington presented by McBrayer PLLC**: Graduation.
- 16** **Business Link hosted by Studio46 Media** (605 Blue Sky Parkway), 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.