Business Focus

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BUSINESS FOCUS

January 2023: Volume XXXI, Issue I

Message from the Incoming Board Chair

As Lexington Mayor Linda Gorton often says, it was the power of partnerships and collaboration that got us through the peaks and valleys of the pandemic. In 2023, we will need to leverage more collaboration to continue our progress in areas like diversity and inclusion, regional vision, education, leadership development, and more.

Diversity, inclusion and equity are key to our business recruitment and retention efforts. First and foremost, we must continue to lift-up those who have been disadvantaged for many years and ensure that all segments of our community not only have a seat at the table, but also have the equal access and opportunity to succeed.

Throughout the year, you'll hear more about the Regional Competitiveness Plan, which aims to make Central Kentucky more competitive for jobs and talent. We'll continue to work with our regional partners to work toward implementing the

recommendations and action items focused on economic development, talent recruitment and retention, and regional leadership development. This is very important as we look to position our region for future success.

Public education has always been top-of-mind for Commerce Lexington, because of the important role it has in preparing and training our future workforce. Again, strong partnerships between the business community and education leaders are a must both in K-12 and postsecondary education as we work to strengthen our workforce.

Our community and region are again in the midst of another big leadership change. We seem to go through this about every 10-12 years, and over the last year or so, there have been a lot of retirements and transitions in key leadership positions. It's important that we help cultivate the next generation of leaders in our community. Commerce Lexington's EMERGE conference and Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass program are both designed to expand the capacity of our up-and-coming emerging leaders to perform within leadership roles. It doesn't matter where you're at in your career, the EMERGE Conference coming up on March 7th is a great way to learn new skills and strategies for leading. I encourage you to take look at your company and consider sending your best and brightest to the conference and/or allowing them to participate in the year-long Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass program.

I'm excited to lead our 2023 Leadership Visit to Grand Rapids, Michigan, which is consistently ranked among the top cities in a variety of categories. Our delegation will explore the stories that have made Grand Rapids what it is today, while writing Lexington's own story of success. I hope you'll consider joining us for this important community-building event, June 5-7.

Finally, from a policy standpoint, it will be very important that we stay engaged in the discussion about land use policy as the city develops Fayette County's next Comprehensive Plan. It is critical that more diverse voices are heard in this process. We must also ensure that we have accurate data related to vacant & available land, so that we our able to make decisions that are right for our community. Land use policy impacts so many things, so it's important that we have the right balance and a plan that works for everyone.

I'll speak more about these and other areas during An Evening With Commerce Lexington on January 26th at Central Bank Center. I encourage you to get involved where you can, because it does matter to this organization and our community. I look forward to working with many of you this year, as we continue to strengthen Lexington and Central Kentucky for the future.



CASSIDY ROSENTHAL STITES & HARBISON LEXINGTON OFFICE EXECUTIVE MEMBER 2023 BOARD CHAIR

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Submitted by Gina Greathouse, Niki Goldey, Cheryl Klever, Falon McFarland & Katie Vandegrift

Awesome Inc. Hosts 2022 Five Across Finale

A large crowd, along with the winners from each of the 2022 5 Across events, gathered at the Kentucky Theatre on December 7th for a festive event to crown the overall 2022 Winner. The founders of Party Horses, Resound, MiniGrip, Water Warriors, and Xena took the stage one last time looking to take home \$5,000 cash and for the first-time ever, an opportunity to accept a \$50,000 investment from Keyhorse Capital, a branch of KSTC. Congratulations to Akhil Suresh Nair and the team at Xena! Their Al-powered eCommerce growth platform uses data intelligence to automate and optimize ad campaign on massive platforms like Amazon, Walmart and Shopify. The second place winner was Party Horses, and the Crowd Favorite was Water Warriors. The first 5 Across event for 2023 is scheduled for February 22 at The Mane on Main.



E.D. Team Members Attend Economix

Commerce Lexinaton economic development team members. Gina Greathouse and Niki Goldey, traveled Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 7-8 to attend Economix. a conference created by economic developers for economic developers. The conference provided valuable networking opportunities, as well as roundtable discussions with top site consultants.



A variety of engaging sessions and regional showcases shed light on the latest happenings in economic development.

KET Hosts Economic Development Forum

Gina Greathouse joined economic development leaders from across the state including J.D. Chaney, president and CEO of the Kentucky League of Cities, Haley McCoy, president & CEO of Kentucky Association for Economic Development, John Bevington, director of business and economic development with LG&E and KU, Ben Pratt, chief of regional economic growth and SVP with Greater Louisville, Bruce Wilcox, president & CEO of Greater Paducah Economic Development, Amanda Davenport, executive







December 12th. To watch the show on-line, visit

www.ket.org/program/ket-forums/building-opportunities-a-ket-forum or scan the QR code with your mobile device.

2022 BY THE NUMBERS:

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

TOTAL PROSPECTS SINCE JANUARY: 56

- 1 Startup/entrepreneur.
- 20 companies with potential expansions.
- 35 prospects interested in relocating to Lexington area.

Existing Business Visits: 78
Existing Business Attempts: 164
Site Visits: 21

Commerce Lexington E.D. Team Attends UndrCvr Lex Event

In November, Commerce Lexington proudly attended UndrCvr Lex in support of our area tech industry. In the Bluegrass, there are 125 companies employing software developers in the Bluegrass and 20 active technology meetups. UndrCvr Lex, organized by the Tech Association of the Bluegrass (TAB), is a bi-annual technology and company expo that seeks to expose creative and technical students (largely post-secondary), and professionals from around the region, to the many career opportunities that exist right here in their backyard.



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Opening Keynote Announced for March 7th EMERGE Conference



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For the tenth consecutive year, Commerce Lexington's EMERGE Conference will bring together the next generation of Central Kentucky leaders for a full day of networking, engaging keynote speakers, informative breakout sessions, and discovering ways to better connect to and impact the community. An outgrowth of one of Commerce Lexington's past Leadership Visits, the 2023 EMERGE Conference presented

by Forcht Bank will take place on Tuesday, March 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Central Bank Center in the heart of downtown Lexington.

Our morning keynote speakers will be **Cherena Fox** and **Keionna Baker** of The Elephant In The Room, an interactive diversity and inclusion company focused on organizational transformations and development through creating comfortable spaces to have uncomfortable



EMERGE Opening Keynote Speakers Keionna Baker (left) and Cherena Fox.

conversations.

Collectively. Keionna and Cherena have years of experience cultivating and working in diverse workspaces. With experience working in education, on diverse teams and, with an array of students, from Kentucky to California, Keionna and Cherena have gained the skills, experience, and knowledge to create highly and workshops. Both have taught and consulted with the development of after-school programs underprivileged communities with

the intention of bridging cultural and racial gaps.

During an Implicit Bias and Cultural Awareness and Inclusion workshop entitled "Check Yourself Before You Wreck Yourself," Baker and Fox will take a deep dive into everyday interactions and ways of thinking, while proactively addressing what microaggressions are and how to examine personal biases before they become damaging to your brand's image and internal teams. They will equip you with the tools needed to create a strong inclusive work culture, and create open communication between teams and management.

TO REGISTER:

The cost to attend 2023 EMERGE is \$198 per person for Commerce Lexington members, \$225 for non-members, and includes a full-day program, luncheon, keynote speakers, and reception. Registration is now available on-line at emergelexington.com.

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An Evening With Commerce Lexington is Thursday, January 26

Presented by Fifth Third Bank, An Evening With Commerce Lexington will take place on Thursday, January 26, from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Central Bank Center. During this premier networking and community recognition gathering, 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.

Back by popular demand, this event will feature the typical dinner format, but with the more recent condensed program. Participants will enjoy great music, food and drink, a brief program, and of course connecting with other business professionals and colleagues inside the recently-renovated convention center in downtown Lexington.

Despite the challenges over the last few years, the Central Kentucky business community has persevered through collaboration and innovation, while providing quality programs and services to



members across the region. We appreciate all who have contributed to this success!

TO REGISTER:

The cost to attend this Commerce Lexington members' only event is \$159 per person or \$1,590 for a table of ten. Register on-line at **www.commercelexington.com**.

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January 18 Basha Roberts President LexTech



February 15 Angela Evans Fayette County Attorney



March 23 Angela Baird Fayette County Commonwealth Attorney

New Year! New Venue!

The Signature Club | 3256 Lansdowne Drive | Lexington | 12:00-1:00pm



Looking for a Networking Opportunity That's Right Up Your Alley Collins Bowling Centers' Southland Lanes Hosts First Business Link of 2023

The next Commerce Lexington Business Link networking event is set for **Thursday, February 16**, from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at **Collins Bowling Centers' Southland Lanes** (205 Southland Drive). Roll on into Business Link and you might just record a strike as you connect with other business professionals, browse our member exhibitors,

and enjoy great food and drink. Bring plenty of business cards, and be ready to network your way to a perfect game both in business and bowling.

Throughout its 60-plus years in

business, Southland Lanes has continued to provide highquality bowling



34TH

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

HEAR IT FROM THE NATION'S EXPERTS:

MARK E SCHWEITZER FROM CLEVELAND FEDERAL RESERVE

FEBRUARY 7TH, 2023

8:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. CENTRAL BANK CENTER



REGISTER NOW







Danny Collins is the fourth generation to run the family owned business. Southland Lanes is open 365 days a year, seven nights a week.

experiences, whether playing competitively or just for fun. With 40 lanes, bowling leagues available year-round, a full bar, snackbar, arcade, and pool

tables, the facility is designed to bring an unlimited amount of fun for you and your friends and family.

TO REGISTER:

The cost to attend the Business Link event is \$5 for Commerce Lexington members, \$10 for non-members (payable at the door). You can also preregister for Business Links on-line at commercelexington.com. NOTE: NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN FOR ONLINE REGISTRATIONS.

RESERVE EXHIBIT SPACE:

Limited exhibit space will be available for Commerce Lexington members to showcase their products and services at this event. The cost is \$149 for members or \$99 for nonprofits. Visit **commercelexington.com** to reserve your space.

BUSINESS LINK:

WHEN: Thursday, February 16 TIME: 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: Collins Bowling Centers' Southland Lanes (205 Southland Drive in Lexington) REGISTER: Register for the event or reserve your exhibit space on-line at

commercelexington.com



IN-PERSON EVENT

@330: When Networking is Not Working, Improve Your Prospecting

Your time as a business owner, entrepreneur or community leader is very limited. So, how do you maximize the time you spend at events, so that you are making connections that are both valuable and effective in producing more return on that time investment to increase your sales, client base or fundraising? During the next Commerce Lexington @330 Series presented and hosted by 46 Solutions on Tuesday, January 24, from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. at the 46 Solutions' showroom (161 Lexington

Green Circle, Suite 140), participants will learn strategies around networking, prospecting and leveraging organizations to improve sales.

This interactive Top of Funnel Sales Workshop training delivered by Growth Solutions Team of Central Kentucky will cover:

- Strategic networking
- The purpose of prospecting
- Leveraging organizations & events
- Identifying target Market(s)
- Sharpening your value message
- · Building the habit of setting the next step



DAVID KELLY

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

David Kelly is the CEO of Growth Solutions Team, which provides businesses the advisory, consulting, leadership development, professional sales training, coaching and accountability services to individuals and teams. David began his career as a small business owner and partner with Insurance Marketing Concepts. The firm of 400+ agents was sold five years in. He spent the bulk of his career as the CEO of Liberty Mortgage. He served his

country in the Marine Corps, and has been active in the community through involvement in Rotary and coaching youth sports.

TO REGISTER:

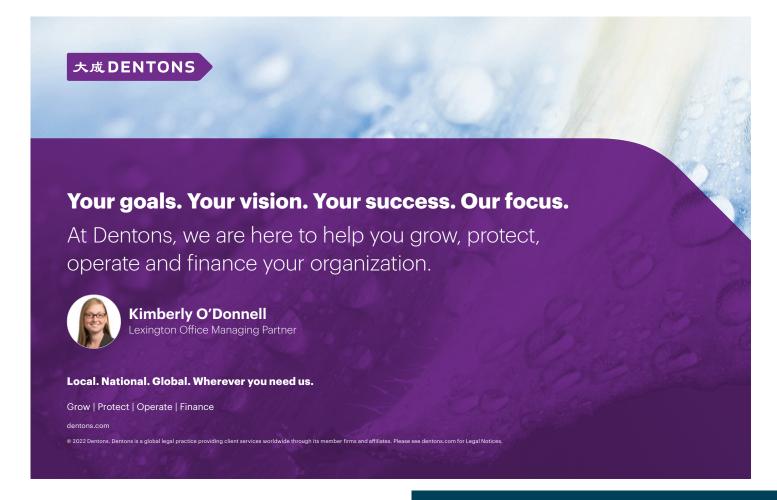
The @330 events feature a topical presentation that is relevant to the success of entrepreneurs, business owners and business professionals. There is no cost to attend this members' only event. Register on-line at **commercelexington.com**.

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@330 SERIES:

BACK TO IN-PERSON
WHEN: Tuesday, Jan. 24
TIME: Program 3:30-4:30
p.m.; Networking 4:30-5 p.m.
TOPIC: Sales & prospecting
WHERE: 46Solutions'
showroom (161 Lexington
Green Circle, Ste. 140)
REGISTER: Register on-line
at commercelexington.com





2023 Leadership Visit Set For Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 5-7



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Sotheby's Bluegrass INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Commerce Lexington is pleased to announce that the 2023 Leadership Visit presented by Central Bank & Trust Co. will take us to Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 5 - 7, 2023. This centrally located community is a hub for research, innovation and boasts a thriving regional economy. A combination of outstanding jobs, educational opportunities, health care, and affordable housing are just a few of the reasons why this community attracts young professionals and businesses from around the globe. You'll experience some of this city's world-class attractions, a thriving arts and cultural scene, while enjoying a few nationally-ranked food and craft beverage venues. No wonder this community is consistently ranked as a top visitors and convention destination.

Grand Rapids is one of the cities leading Michi-

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gan's population growth, with a 4.0% increase in population over a 5-year period (2015-2020). Year over year, the city has been touted as a 'Millennial Magnet' by more than one independent study. Join us as we learn why professionals, families, businesses and visitors love Grand Rapids. The Leadership Visit delegation will explore the stories that have made Grand Rapids what it is today, while writing Lexington's own story of success.

TO REGISTER:

Registration available commercelexington.com for the Leadership Visit to Grand Rapids, Michigan. Full registration includes charter air travel, meals as outlined in the agenda, and two nights' accommodations at the JW Marriott.

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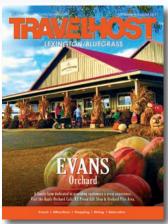












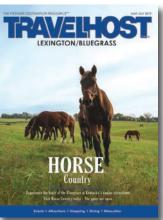












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State Legislators Return to Frankfort for Regular Session in January

In January, state lawmakers return to Frankfort for the 30-day Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly. During the "short session," legislators are expected to focus on policy clean-up items rather than any major budget issues. Additionally, there will be 31 new legislators (26 state House members and 7 state Senators) learning issues and processes. A top state priority for Commerce Lexington will be encouraging legislators to lower the state's personal income tax from 5 percent to 4.5 percent. In recent years, the General Assembly has taken action to reform the state's tax code to make Kentucky more competitive with surrounding states. These reforms have included lowering the state's corporate income tax rate to five percent, creating a framework to allow for the lowering of the state's individual income tax rate over time based on revenue triggers, and modestly expanding the state sales tax base to additional services.

Commerce Lexington will also be advocating for the General Assembly to take steps to reform Kentucky's local government taxing structure to allow for greater economic competitiveness and diversification in taxing options. Kentucky is one of a handful of states across the nation that are heavily reliant on local occupational taxes (payroll taxes and business net profits) to fund the majority of local government services. To be competitive and keep up with demands for services and investments in quality of place, our local communities need more taxing flexibility that allows them to make decisions that work best for their economies. Currently, local governments are limited by the Kentucky Constitution to three areas of local taxation - occupational, property and other licensing fees. The first step in local tax modernization requires the General Assembly to pass a Constitutional Amendment removing the restrictive language and authorizing the General Assembly to create a new framework for local governments. The second step is for the Constitutional Amendment to go on the ballot for Kentucky voters to ratify. The third step is the General Assembly crafting a new local government tax code with options for local governments to choose to adopt.

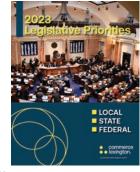
Land use planning, identifying more land for economic development throughout the 9-county region, and increasing investment in product development are other top priorities for Commerce Lexington's economic development and policy advocacy. The lack of shovel-ready land is a challenge not only for Lexington but for other counties in the region as well. Currently, Lexington has less than 10 sites (with 10 acres or more of contiguous land) for light industrial uses, and these parcels are scattered throughout the city. The region also lacks a mega-site (500+acres) to market for major economic investment opportunities putting our region at a competitive disadvantage.

Addressing the workforce challenges facing employers across all sectors continues to be a policy priority for Commerce Lexington. Creating an intentional strategy to attract and retain talent to Central Kentucky will be a focus for marketing, increasing work-based learning experiences, and policy advocacy for funding investments to support these strategies in 2023.

Commerce Lexington Releases 2023 Public Policy Priorities:

Commerce Lexington Inc. is proud to work on behalf of our members and the Central Kentucky business community as an effective public policy voice at all levels of government to improve Kentucky's business climate. Throughout the year, Commerce Lexington's Public Policy Council researches, analyzes and discusses important policy issues from the perspective of how it may affect the Central Kentucky business community, then recommends advocacy position statements. These statements guide the chamber's advocacy efforts for the year.

Please take a few minutes to go online and review the **2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES** document **(scan QR code)** to learn about issues Commerce Lexington will be tracking on behalf of the business community this year at the local, state and federal levels of





government. Many of our policy priorities will be focused on supporting the recently launched "Regional Competitiveness Plan" aimed at increasing the region's competitiveness for jobs. GDP growth and workforce over the next five years. More than 45 key public and private sector leaders representing the nine-county economic development region analyzed current economic conditions, challenges, and opportunities and reached consensus on a limited number of action items for collaboration that would be impactful on the whole region. The region served by Commerce Lexington includes: Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Jessamine, Madison, Montgomery, Scott and Woodford counties. The plan includes action items focused on enhancing the regional brand and marketing efforts to recruit and retain businesses and talent in the region; increasing the amount of shovel ready land and buildings for economic development; policy changes to improve the tax and regulatory climate; and funding for critical infrastructure needed to support more workers and jobs in the region.

CONTACT:

Commerce Lexington urges members to stay connected throughout 2023 on policy issues. Regular e-mail updates will be provided to members throughout the Legislative Session and the year to keep businesses updated on what's happening in City Hall, Frankfort and Washington, D.C. and the impact of potential legislation to Central Kentucky's economy. If you have questions, need assistance with a policy issue or would like to get involved with advocacy efforts, contact **Andi Johnson**, Chief Policy Officer and Director of Regional Engagement, at ajohnson@commercelexington.com.

Central Kentucky Leaders Come Together for Regional Summit

About 225 regional leaders came together to learn more about the Regional Competitiveness Plan during the Regional Summit presented by Community Trust Bank on Nov. 30th. Attendees heard from national economic development

experts and participated in breakout sessions focused on the key action items included in the plan. The plan aims to better position Central Kentucky for the future by making us more competitive for jobs and talent.



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Top row left to right: Larry Jones (Community Trust Bank); Ted Abernathy (Executive Leadership); Bowling Green Chamber President Ron Bunch, John Bevington (LG&E & KU) and Jeff Bischoff (Gray Construction).

Middle row left to right: Matt Smith (Clark Regional Medical Center), Timothy Johnson (United Way of the Bluegrass), William Downey (R.J. Corman) & Kentucky Chamber President Ashli Watts; Kat Saunders & Robyn Domber (Development Counsellors International); and Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet Secretary Jeff Noel.



Above left to right: Anetha Sanford (Home Builders Association of Kentucky), Todd Johnson (Building Industry Association of Central KY), Rusty Underwood (Bluegrass REALTORS & Milestone Realty) and Justin Landon (Bluegrass REALTORS). (Regional Summit Photos by Mahan Multimedia)

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Legislators, Business Leaders Connect During Legislative Breakfast

The 2022 State Legislative Appreciation Breakfast was held on December 5 at Kentucky Eagle, Inc.. The event included opportunities to network with state legislators and learn about priority state issues. Several legislators with the Central Kentucky Caucus attended the event with an emphasis on members that represent Fayette County. **Kentucky Senate President**



Damon Thayer and **Kentucky House Speaker David Osborne** provided insight on the upcoming 2023 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly.

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Top producing individuals during this year's campaign were recognized during the Victory Luncheon on December 16th at the Speakeasy at 903 Venues. (Photo by Commerce Lexington)

Winner's Circle Completes 20th Year With Successful Campaign

Led by co-chairs Ray and Tiffany Daniels, the Winner's Circle completed its 20th year with another successful campaign. Campaign leadership, staff and volunteers celebrated with a Victory Event at the Speakeasy at 903 Venues in mid-December that featured a Bourbon tasting experience. This annual fundraising campaign enlists the help of volunteers from throughout the community, who seek to bring in new members, renewals and membership upgrades, while informing existing members of services and marketing opportunities available through Commerce Lexington.

Top-producing individuals at press time of this issue included **Abby**

Vaughn (American Trust), Todd Sallee (Stock Yards Bank & Trust), and Victoria Carling (City National Bank). Top-producing teams were American Trust, Central Bank & Trust, WesBanco Bank, PNC Bank, Community Trust Bank, and Stock Yards Bank & Trust. Three volunteers were recognized with perfect attendance for the 2022 campaign, including Lisa Parke (ADVERTISING SPECIALTIES...), Jeannine Petell (Community Trust Bank), and Abby Vaughn (American Trust).

Watch for final production totals from the campaign and more volunteer recognitions in the next issue of **BUSINESS FOCUS** magazine.

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 insur-

Health Solutions

ance. 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 on-line at https://web.commercelexington.com/Insurance-Humana-AgenciesAgents

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.

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.



Emerging Leaders of the BG Presents Conflict Resolution Strategies

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. In December, emerging leaders gathered at Activate Games for some year-end networking, team building, and just plain fun.

Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass will kick off the new calendar year on **January 31** from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. with Dr. Virgil Grant administering an assessment that determines how you tend to respond to conflict and what conflict-handling options are available to you. In addition, you will learn valuable conflict management skills. Those who would like to attend this upcoming event must be Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass passholders.

JOIN EMERGING LEADERS:

Purchase your annual pass today and begin expanding your capacity through professional

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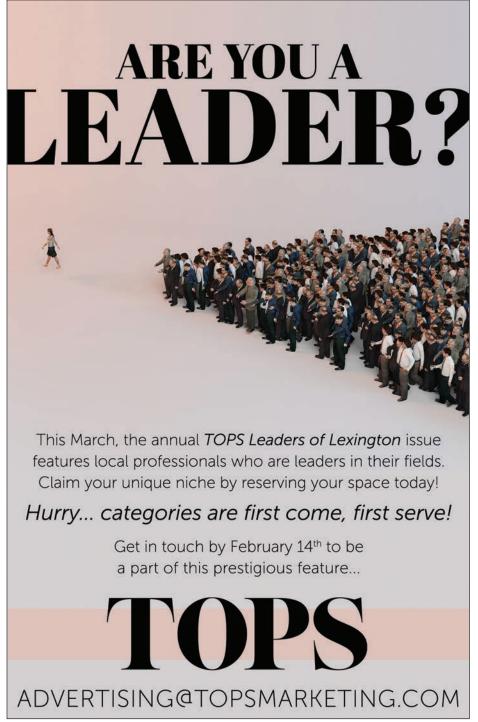
Mahan Multimedia



ABOVE: Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass participants at Activate Games in December. (Photo by Mahan Multimedia)

development, networking and community education opportunities. The cost for a full year of professional development programming is \$100 for Commerce Lexington members, \$125 for nonmembers, and \$50 for students. To learn more about Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass, visit www.emergingleadersbg.com.







Leadership Central Kentucky Class Members Visit Franklin County



PLATINUM SPONSORS















SILVER SPONSORS:

Ale-8-One Bluegrass Community & Technical College Bluegrass Hearing Clinic Community Ventures Corporation Country Boy Brewing

By Cathy Jennings, Frankfort Plant Board

The Leadership Central Kentucky group started its day with Tish Shade, President & CEO of the Frankfort Area Chamber of Commerce, at the Kentucky State Capitol, where we enjoyed breakfast and heard a legislative preview from the Kentucky Chamber, who sponsored break-

After a tour of the Capitol Building, we met Supreme Court Justice Christopher Nickell, who gave us a tour of the Supreme Court. We were also able to get a photo in the Chairs on the Supreme Court bench (a rare opportunity). Justice Nickell gave us a brief overview of the way the Supreme Court members convene. After that, we were welcomed by Governor Andy Beshear. We had a quick question and answer session and photos with him (pictured below).

We then traveled to Rebecca Ruth Candy to

have a taste of their famous bourbon balls, followed by lunch at the Frankfort Country Club, where we were welcomed by Karen Wheeler of Beam Suntory. We heard about the Jim Beam bottling facility in Frankfort and tasted a sample of Jim Beam Black. Next, Frankfort Mayor Layne Wilkerson discussed the city's government, how it's run, and some exciting new tourist attractions coming to the city in the next few years.

After lunch, we toured Kentucky State University's aquaponics facility and heard from faculty about their world-renowned program. Then, it was on to Buffalo Trace Distillery, where we toured the grounds and saw how bourbon is produced from start to finish. We met the infamous Freddie Johnson, third generation Buffalo Trace employee and VIP Visitor Lead. The day wrapped up at Serafini's owned by Leadership Central Kentucky class member, John Senter.



Amy Carrington Stout Promoted to V.P., Leadership Development



AMY STOUT

Commerce Lexington Inc. is pleased to announce that Amy Carrington Stout has been promoted to Vice President of Leadership Development. She has been a valuable team member at Commerce Lexington for 11 years and is responsible for managing the Leadership Lexington and Leadership Central Kentucky programs, as well as the annual EMERGE conference and Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass. A native of Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, Amy is a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, and later completed an Honors

Degree at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand, studying as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar. She also has a master's degree in Community and Leadership Development from the University of Kentucky. Amy currently serves on the boards of the Lexington Children's Theatre and Lexington Forum, as well as the advisory board for The Arboretum and as a parent representative on the Faith Lutheran Learning Center Committee.



Leadership Lexington Hears About Impact of Local Health System

By Christal Badour, University of Kentucky

Leadership Lexington's December session focused on health and human services. The day began at Saint Joseph Hospital with an overview of the hospital's mission from CHI Saint Joseph Health Foundations President, Leslie Smart, This was followed by an overview of health and health care in Kentucky from Jim Musser of the Kentucky Hospital Association. Next. we heard from Kathy Love. who provided an overview of the services CHI Saint Joseph Health offers throughout Kentucky as well as personal stories of impact from former patients. We were then given a tour of the Cardiovascular Center, Cardiac Rehabilitation, and Access Center within Saint Joseph Hospital to get a behind-thescenes look at how different aspects of hospital services are coordinated and delivered.

We next heard from Dr. Allen Brenzel, from the state Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities, Cabinet for Health & Families Services who provided an overview of the growing mental health and substance use challenges facing our community, and particularly our youth. He shared information about the history of mental health services in Kentucky and where he sees critical gaps in the existing social safety net. This was followed by moving personal testimony of the impact of addiction and the experience of substance use recovery from Mark Mahan of Mahan Multimedia and Dr. Alex Elswick of the University of Kentucky and co-founder of Voices of Hope. Dr. Elswick provided the class with a crash course in the science of addiction and offered compelling evidence for



Commerce Lexington Photo

the need to shift the way we think about and treat addiction in our community.

Finally, the class broke into four different groups to each visit two local non-profits, including 1) United Way of the Bluegrass Waypoint Center at Black & Williams Center and Lexington Leadership Foundation Fatherhood Initiative; 2) Hope Center and Arbor Youth Services; 3) **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) (pictured above)** and Children's Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass; and 4) Greenhouse 17 and Opportunity for Work & Learning. I was part of the group that visited the Hope Center and Arbor Youth Services.

Visits to each of these non-profits showcased the critical need for these organizations services to ensure that adults and youth have access to safe shelter and housing in our community. I was also struck by the clear and unwavering dedication of the staff at both of these organizations to improving the health and well-being of the people they serve.

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Blue Grass Community Foundation LG&E & KU

BREAKFAST SPONSOR:

McGregor & Associates

HISTORY SPONSOR:

LEX History

2023 Ambassador Committee Announced; Vicki Evans Recognized

Commerce Lexington is pleased to announce the members of its 2023 Ambassador Committee, a selective group of volunteers who serve as an extension of the Commerce Lexington staff, ensuring that member businesses are getting the most out of their membership. Ambassadors help educate members on benefits, programs, and events, as well as represent Commerce Lexington at ribbon cuttings, grand openings, network-

At the 2022 Ambassador Appreciaton Reception in December, **Vicki Evans**, vice president of community relations with TOPS Marketing Group, was recognized with the Ambassador of the Year Award for 2022. The award criteria includes overall participation, as well as effectiveness and contributions to the committee.

ing functions, and open houses.



VICKI EVANS

2023 Ambassador Committee Members:

Jennifer Ambs, The Lafayette **Shelby Bass**, The Willows at Hamburg

Shawn Blades, Truist

Brandy Borchers, Builders Exchange of KY Sheila Carmack, Central Bank and Trust Francisco Castro, JCC Insurance Group Erin Caudill, Wise Staffing Group

Nicole Corbin, Studio46 Media
Emily Cowles, Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs

Courtney Desrochers, Marshall Pediatric
Therapy

Cheryl Eadens, Bluegrass Office Systems Vicki Evans, TOPS Marketing Group Lesley Fluke, Field and Main Bank Caroline Francis, UK Alumni Career Services Mary Lynn Garrett, Mid-American Rare Coin Gallery

Lisa Gibson, Dynamic Restoration

Jamie Hall, WDKY FOX56

Melynda Jamison, CASA of Lexington Matthew Lockaby, Lockaby PLLC Jennifer Longworth, Bourbon Barrel

Podcasting

Gina Miller, Forcht Bank

Jeff Morrett, Parsons & Howard Insurance

Group (2023 Committee Chair)

Crystal Newton, 46Solutions

Paul Peters, Rector-Hayden

Becky Trimble, Central Bank Center Mark Wiemer, WesBanco Bank



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New Commerce Lexington Inc. Members From November 16 through December 13, 2022

Bluegrass Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

Dentists-Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Main Contact: Candi Barker 3080 Harrodsburg Rd., #275 Lexington, KY 40503 Phone: (859) 278-5377 www.Bluegrassoms.com

Branded 78

Marketing Consultants/Services Main Contact: Brandon Arvay 110 W. Vine Street, Third Floor Lexington, KY 40507 Phone: (859) 470-4673 www.Branded78.com

Calvary Baptist Church of Lexington, KY

Churches
Main Contact: Monty Stallins
150 East High Street
Lexington, KY 40507
Phone: (859) 254-3491
www.calvarybaptistchurch.com

Card Development

Real Estate
Main Contact: Kathryn Kaufman
325 West Main
Lexington, KY 40507
Phone: (202) 557-0715

DAW Cleaning Service

Cleaning Services Commercial & Industrial Main Contact: Andre Wilson 1450 N. Broadway Lexington, KY 40509 Phone: (859) 621-2661

Epik LLC

Hauling Main Contact: Cara McWhorter 1585 Mercer Road, Suite 120 Lexington, KY 40511 Phone: (859) 797-9857

Facility Commissioning Group

Engineers-Consulting
Main Contact: Vernon Yates
158 Burt Road
Lexington, KY 40503
Phone: (859) 278-5552
www.facomgrp.com

Frankfort Chiropractic Center

Chiropractors D.C.
Main Contact: Jason Luking
103 Twin Oaks Dr. #2
Frankfort, KY 40601
Phone: (502) 875-3200
www.frankfortchiro.com

Hampton Inn & Suites (Brannon Crossing - Nicholasville)

Hotels/Motels
Main Contact: Jakaye Martin
453 E. Brannon Rd.
Nicholasville, KY 40356
Phone: (859) 724-7905
www.thghotels.net

Jennifer Tibbetts, PSC

Accountants
Main Contact: Jennifer Tibbetts
501 Darby Creek Road, Suite 34
Lexington, KY 40509
Phone: 859-272-1183

Leadrilla, Inc.

Software Developers
Main Contact: Koby Hastings
401 W. Main St., Suite 303
Lexington, KY 40507
Phone: (859) 251-6236
www.leadrilla.com

Lexington Addiction Center

Mental Health Services
Main Contact: Jacob Biddulph
351 Burley Ave., Suite 200
Lexington, KY 40503
Phone: (859) 681-7823
https://lexingtonaddictioncenter.com

Maple Leaf Roofing Systems

Roofing Contractors
Main Contact: Annie Forster
164 Quebec Way
Lexington, KY 40588
Phone: (859) 629-2914
www.mapleleafguttersystems.com

Marcum Engineering, LLC

Engineers-Consulting
Main Contact: Lance Allison
2456 Fortune Dr., Suite 105
Lexington, KY 40509
Phone: (859) 537-0112
www.marcumengineering.net

Maxberry Property Services

Painting Contractors
Main Contact: TJ Maxberry
1591 Winchester Rd., Ste 104
Lexington, KY 40505
Phone: (859) 489-3842
http://maxberrypropertyservices.com

Morgan Stanley

Financial Services
Main Contact: Brandon Fraley
444 E. Main Street, Suite 111
Lexington, KY 40507
Phone: (859) 231-9500
https://advisor.morganstanley.com/lexington-branch

Piper-Smith

Government Relations/Lobbying Main Contact: Jared Smith 175 East Main Street, #300 Lexington, KY 40507 Phone: (859) 494-9584 www.piper-smith.com

Play Mart, Inc.

Manufacturers Main Contact: Tabitha Sani 170 Allens Way Somerset, KY 42501 Phone: (606) 679-2572 www.playmart.com

Rafferty's Restaurant & Bar

Restaurants Main Contact: Sean Curry 1865 Alysheba Way Lexington, KY 40509 Phone: (859) 264-8900 www.raffertys.com

Ruoff Mortgage

Mortgages Main Contact: Jason Heflin 523 Wellington Way, Ste 325 Lexington, KY 40503 Phone: (859) 621-6592 http://ruoff.com

Secat, Inc.

Laboratories-Testing
Main Contact: Todd Boggess
1505 Bull Lea Road
Lexington, KY 40511
Phone: (859) 514-4989
www.secat.net

Sharicom Medical Courier, a Sharicom Health Company

Logistics Main Contact: Jordan Palmer 113 Glenn Pl., Bldg. 2 Lexington, KY 40505 Phone: (859) 534-8550 https://sharicomhealth.com

Sokari & Company, LLC

Consultants Main Contact: Opa Johnson 6701 Jacks Creek Pike Lexington, KY 40515 Phone: (229) 343-3889

Spray-Net Lexington

Home Improvement Services
Main Contact: Christopher Gordon
4036 Palmetto Dr.
Lexington, KY 40513
Phone: (859) 533-2915
www.spray-net.com

PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS



Corporate Moves, Company Awards and Notable Milestones

Realtor **Wendy Dugger** recently joined **The Agency**.

Dr. Paul Hester, the owner of Lexington's Be Medispa, was one of 400 physicians representing 54 countries selected to attend the Merz Expert Summit in Vienna, Austria, in November. The Scientific symposium brings together Physicians specializing in aesthetic medicine to engage with their peers and other industry leaders worldwide.

Jessie Schook was named vice president of workforce and economic development for the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

Gary A. Means, CAPP, executive director of the **Lexington & Fayette County Parking Authority**, has been named chair of the 2022-23 Board of Directors of the International Parking & Mobility Institute, the largest association of professionals in parking, transportation, and mobility.

The Lexington Public Library announced the promotions of Tonya Head to deputy director and **Rob Parmley** to director of operations. The Library Board elevated the following to leadership positions on the Executive Committee: Lynda Bebrowsky (Commerce Lexington) as Chair; Ralph Coldiron (The Lane Report) as Vice Chair; Stephanie Nallia (Financial Advisor) as Treasurer; and Susan Wright (U.S. Postal Service) as Secretary. New Trustees include Casandra **Hockenberry** (Council of State Governments) and Yajaira West (PNC). New Advisory Board Members include **Elizabeth Adams** (Lexington Police Department); DeLane Bender (AMR Management Solutions); Jennifer Bird-Pollan (UK Rosenberg College of Law); Craig Cammack (Mayor's Office, City of Lexington), Alexander Garcia (Fayette County Public Schools); Shawntaye Hopkins (UK Rosenberg College of Law); Carly Muetterties (Newsela); Hunter Porter (BC Wood Properties); and Daryl Privott (Morehead State University). The Library Foundation's Executive Committee includes Ramsey Bova and Larry Smith, Co-Chairs, Mary Lynne Capilouto, Vice Chair, D. Keith Key, Treasurer, and **Jomo Thompson**, Secretary. New members include Lynda Bebrowsky, Rod Brotherton. Elizabeth Combs, Chase Minnifield, and Rebecca Poppe.

PNC Bank in Lexington recently welcomed Evan Daugherty as vice president and investment advisor for PNC Private Bank and Marcus Miller as business banking relationship manager. In addition, **Christen Boone** has been appointed Kentucky market director for PNC Institutional Asset Management.

Recent additions at **RADIOLEX** include **Kiah Arnold** as production tech and **Alex Moriarty** as project manager for a new multi-media health equity campaign.

The 2023 edition of *Benchmark Litigation* named twelve **Stites & Harbison**, **PLLC** attorneys as "Litigation Stars" and three as "Future Stars" in Kentucky. The guide honors firms and attorneys who have demonstrated the ability to consistently handle complex, high-stakes cases in multiple jurisdictions. Several Lexington office attorneys were recognized, including **Daniel Danford**, **William Gorton III**, **Gregory Parsons**, **Ashley Ward**, and **Cassidy Rosenthal**.

Stock Yards Bank & Trust was named one of the Best Banks to Work For by American Banker and Best Companies Group. The community bank was one of only 90 banks featured on the 2022 list. The Best Banks to Work For program identifies, recognizes and honors U.S. banks for outstanding employee satisfaction.

Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC has been named to the 2023 U.S. News - Best Lawyers® "Best Law Firms" list in more than two dozen practice areas. Firms included in the list are recognized for professional excellence with persistently impressive ratings from both clients and peers. The firm received Metropolitan Tier 1 rankings in 38 different practice areas across four Stoll Keenon Ogden locations.

Sturgill, Turner, Barker & Moloney, PLLC announced that 21 of its practice areas have been included in the 2023 edition of U.S. News - The Best Lawyers in America "Best Law Firms" metropolitan categories. In addition, 22 Sturgill Turner attorneys have been included in the 2023 edition of U.S. News - The Best Lawyers in America, with two recognized as Lexington Lawyers of the Year, including Stephen L. Barker (mediations) and **Bryan** H. Beauman (employment law). Among the Best Lawyers' 2023 list were Barker, Beauman, Charles D. Cole, Kacev M. Coleman, Andrew D. DeSimone, Jamie W. Dittert, Kevin G. Henry, Stan Lee, Donald P. "Pat" Moloney, Phillip M. Moloney, M. Todd Osterloh, Josh J. Owen, Josh M. Salsburey, E. Douglas Stephan, Kevin W. Weaver, Timothy C. Wills, Langdon R. Worley, Derrick T. Wright, and Sarah Charles Wright. Attornevs Catherine E. "Katie" Bouvier and Donald C. Morgan were named to the Best Lawyers "Ones to Watch" list.

Sturgill, Turner, Barker & Moloney, PLLC welcomed three new attorneys to the firm, including S. Patrick Riley, Jay L. Phillips, and Savannah G. Baker.

Christian Appalachian Project selected **WDKY FOX56** as its 2022 Philanthropist of the Year during the National Philanthropy Day celebration. The station was recognized for leading fundraising efforts to help families devastated by historic flooding in Eastern Kentucky in July 2022.

Started in 1972, **The Webb Companies** is celebrating its 50th anniversary in business this year. As Central Kentucky's oldest and largest commercial real estate firm, The Webb Companies specializes in commercial development, property management, leasing, brokerage and tenant representation.

Wiser Strategies announced the addition of **Brandalin Foster** as communication strategist.

SUBMIT PERSONNEL NEWS:

Submit company awards, personnel changes, additions, or promotions to mturner@commercelexington.com. Information is published in the order received and as space permits.





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COMMERCE LEXINGTON CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2023:

- Leadership Lexington presented by McBrayer PLLC: Economic Development Day Session.
- Leadership Central Kentucky presented by LG&E & KU Energy: Madison County Day.
- **24 @330 presented & hosted by 46Solutions**, 3:30 5 p.m. at its showroom (161 Lexington Green Circle, Suite 140).

- SEE PAGE 9

- 26 An Evening With Commerce Lexington presented by Fifth Third Bank, 5:30 8:30 p.m., at Central Bank Center. SEE PAGE 7
- 31 Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass presented by Keeneland; Conflict resolution workshop, 8:30 10:30 a.m. SEE PAGE 15

FEBRUARY 2023:

- **Member Mixer**, 10:00 11:15 a.m., via Zoom.
- **7 UK Economic Outlook Conference**, 8:30 a.m. Noon, at Central Bank Center.
- **9 Leadership Lexington presented by McBrayer PLLC:** Education Day Session.
- Leadership Central Kentucky presented by LG&E & KU Energy: Madison County Day.
- Business Link sponsored by Southland Lanes (205 Southland Drive), 4:00 6:00 p.m. SEE PAGE 8

MARCH 2023:

7 EMERGE Conference presented by Forcht Bank, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., at Central Bank Center. - SEE PAGE 6

JUNE 2023:

5–7 Leadership Visit presented by Central Bank & Trust Co. to Grand Rapids, Michigan. - SEE PAGE 10