Business Focus

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BUSINESS FOCUS

March 2022: Volume XXX, Issue III

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Submit your company's awards and milestones or personnel changes and additions to mturner@commercelexington.com. Personnel news might include promotions, additions, awards and milestones, recognitions and certifications and/or appointments. Information is published only as space permits.



There are moments when doors of opportunity open.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

Vector Corrosion Technologies to Locate Facility in Lexington

Last month, Commerce Lexington partnered with the city and state to announce a new company that located in Lexington. Vector Corrosion Technologies, a provider of corrosion mitigation products and services, will invest over \$1 million to establish its first U.S. manufacturing facility on Winchester Road, creating 20 full-time jobs. Headquartered in Winnipeg, Canada, Vector has over 50 years of experience in concrete repair and corrosion solution to extend the life of infrastructure. Commerce Lexington President and CEO Bob Quick thanked the company for its commitment. "We are excited to welcome Vector Corrosion Technologies to Central Kentucky. This growing manufacturing operation plans to provide a variety of great jobs for the community," Quick said. "This is a key strategic target for our economic development efforts and will further strengthen our competitive advantage in this important economic sector. We want to thank Vector Corrosion Technologies for its investment and confidence in Lexington."

E.D. Update to City's Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee

As one of the city's economic development partners, Commerce Lexington shared an update of accomplishments to the Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee in February. Information presented included the Economic Development division's focus on business retention and expansion, business recruitment and entrepreneurial support. The presentation demonstrated our strategic initiative to create new primary jobs that increase household income and the city's revenue through occupational tax withholdings which in return encourage greater capital investment in our region. Additionally, the Business and Education Network and Minority Business Enterprise provided an update and highlighted how all three divisions work collectively to enhance the quality of life in central Kentucky.

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: 6 new prospects interested in finding a new location or expanding in the Lexington area.

CLIENT VISITS TO LEXINGTON AREA: 2
EXISTING BUSINESS VISITS: 17
EXISTING BUSINESS ATTEMPTS: 12
ACTIVE PROJECTS: 35



UK Economic Outlook Conference

Commerce Lexington co-sponsored and attended the 33rd annual Economic Outlook Conference hosted by the University of Kentucky's Gatton College of Business and Economics. Our team listened to guest speakers from the Cleveland Federal Reserve, Gatton College of Business and Economics and Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education to discuss the importance of education, workforce, supply chain, healthcare, and other valuable factors affecting Kentucky's economic climate. Attendees received a Kentucky Annual Economic Report courtesy of UK's Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER), whose primary research denotes that systematic and scientific inquiries into economic phenomena yield valuable knowledge to comprehend the formulation of informed public policy.

Bluegrass Alliance Meeting

The Commerce Lexington Economic Development team facilitated and hosted the nine-county regional Bluegrass Alliance meeting at Commerce Lexington with additional representation from Harrison County. Guest speaker Ted Abernathy discussed the regional economic growth plan, Barry Kornstein shared a high-level overview of the Economic Impact Model that Commerce Lexington uses to determine the direct and in-direct economic impact of a company locating in Lexington and/or region; and Mark Franklin and John Merchant representing Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP introduced Industrial Revenue Bonds and how they impact economic development. The Bluegrass Alliance meets bi-monthly to share community updates, available real estate, current and future endeavors.

Utility Informational Sessions

On January 26th, the economic development division continued utility education and hosted a hybrid informational session featuring guest speaker Tyler Burke representing Columbia Gas of Kentucky. The presentation provided a high-level overview of natural gas – from sourcing and extraction to adequate storage fields to customer delivery. Main takeaways from the presentation included understanding various examples of how industrial customers use natural gas, common measuring units, typical industrial load and pressure requirements, and effectively responding to an RFI- what the gas company needs to know. Attendees included members from the Cabinet for Economic Development and Commerce Lexington's Economic Development division. In March, our team will be facilitating an informational session to learn more about broadband services with special guests representing Windstream.

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



Make New Connections at March 16th Opportunity Exchange

Commerce Lexington's Spring Opportunity Exchange event presented by Equity Solutions Group on Wednesday, March 16, from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at The Campbell House, Curio Collection by Hilton (1375 S. Broadway) will feature great networking, exchange of ideas, and interaction for minority-owned and small businesses in the Lexington region. The event also connects minority business owners with procurement representatives from some of the largest companies in the region.

This Opportunity Exchange will also include a panel discussion that includes **Ray Daniels**, President & CEO of Equity Solutions Group, **Marilyn Clark**, Supplier Diversity Manager for the University of Kentucky, and **Clark Williams**, Managing Member of Progression Strategic Solutions. All three are knowledgeable about the information and connections necessary for minority-owned small businesses to succeed.

Commerce Lexington's Minority Business Development Program works to promote and



RAY DANIELS





MARILYN CLARK CLARK WILLIAMS

sustain the economic growth, development, and self-sufficiency of ethnic minority business owners and entrepreneurs; recruits minority-owned businesses into the Lexington region and provides business referral services.

TO REGISTER:

The cost to attend this Opportunity Exchange event is \$5 for Commerce Lexington members and \$10 for potential members. Register on-line at **www.commercelexington.com**.

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Policy Information Submitted by Andi Johnson, Chief Policy Officer

Ky. General Assembly Passes Halfway Mark of 60-Day Session

At the time of publication, the Kentucky General Assembly surpassed the halfway point in the 60-day Regular Session. Crafting the next two-year budget for the Commonwealth is the priority issue for lawmakers. The House of Representatives passed its version of the state's Executive Branch budget in January. HB 1 invests more than a \$100 billion - including general fund, restricted, and federal dollars - over the next two fiscal years. Significant investments are made in transportation, broadband and water/sewer infrastructure, K-12 education, higher education, public safety and provides pay increases for the Kentucky State Police, state employees and social workers.

In addition to the performance-based funding increase for public universities, the House budget invests in capital projects. For the University of Kentucky, HB 1 provides state resources for continued revitalization of critical buildings on the core campus. The state dollars for maintenance will be partially matched by UK to leverage even greater investment in classroom and research spaces. HB 1 also funds the top priority capital project for UK. This project is the construction of the Health Sciences Building that will house the College of Medicine and other health colleges and programs. HB 1 increases investment in the Bucks for Brains program that allows UK to invest in scholars and researchers. Through this program, UK has matched state dollars to endow hundreds of faculty members in areas directly responsive to the needs of the state in cancer research, Alzheimer's, cardiology, diabetes, literacy, equine research and engineering.

The House budget is being considered in the Senate. Differences in the House and Senate versions of the budget will likely be negotiated in a conference committee. Legislators have until April 15 to pass legislation.

Other priority issues for Commerce Lexington include continued state tax reform, first steps to modernizing the local tax structures, reforms to the state's unemployment insurance system, and childcare assistance to help with workforce participation.

State Tax Reform: At the time of print, House and Senate legislative leaders have said they are considering taking the next step to reform

the state's tax code and continue to move away from taxes on productivity. In 2018 and 2019, the General Assembly enacted tax reforms to create a pro-growth environment, including reducing Kentucky's corporate and personal income tax to five percent while modestly expanding the sales base to include certain services. If a tax reform 2.0 bill is introduced, it is expected to again lower individual and corporate income tax rates to improve Kentucky's competitiveness with surrounding states. Almost all of Kentucky's surrounding states have lower individual income tax rates.

Local Tax Reform: Rep. Michael Meredith is championing a Constitutional Amendment (HB 475) and enabling legislation (HB 476) to start the process of modernizing and diversifying taxing option for local governments. Kentucky's Constitution currently limits the revenue options that local governments can utilize. For example, the city of Lexington cannot enact a local sales tax. The primary sources of the city's revenue are from payroll taxes on employee wages, net profit taxes on business, insurance premium taxes and other utility franchise fees. Providing more tax flexibility for local governments is another priority issue for Commerce Lexington.

Unemployment Insurance Reform: The General Assembly is considering legislation (HB 4) to reform the state's unemployment insurance system. The UI system provides wage replacement benefits for unemployed workers and is funded by annual tax assessments on businesses (Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund). The reforms in HB 4, sponsored by Rep. Russell Webber, address some of the concerns with the system raised by employers during the pandemic, such as strengthening the work search requirements and authorizing a process by which employers can report when a claimant does not show up for an interview or work. Other key provisions include indexing the maximum number of weeks a claimant can receive benefits to the

Continued on Page 13

Small Business Marketing Award

Your business or non-profit in Central Kentucky could win up to \$10,000 of free program sponsorship spots and digital ads on 91.3 WUKY. Preference will be given to organizations that address the needs of low-income and marginalized populations.



March 8th EMERGE Features Dynamic Keynotes & Breakouts

The 2022 Commerce Lexinaton EMERGE Conference presented by Forcht Bank has been set for **Tuesday. March 8th**, in person at Central Bank Center. This full day of programming for our region's emerging leaders will provide community education and professional development opportunities on a variety of topics through dynamic keynotes, panel discussions, and other fun activities. This exciting event offers networking, access to community leaders, and education through a variety of breakout sessions. Find out more about EMERGE and register on-line at emergelexington.com.

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View the Full EMERGE Agenda at emergelexington.com

Keynote Speaker:

Headlining this year's conference is Chris Clews, a speaker and author of the book series What 80s Pop



Morning Keynote:

Colene Elridge is the CEO of Be More Consulting and founder of the EmpowHer Conference. Her morning

keynote is entitled "It's Hard, You're Stressed, You Might Be A Mess: How To Keep Your Cool In Stressful Situations." She will give you tools and tips on how to manage those high conflict, high stress, high stakes situations.

The Future of Work in a Post-Pandemic World

Two years ago, employers were forced to break all the rules and completely change the game. In this breakout session, top HR leaders will discuss how our recent experiences inform and shape the way we position our businesses, organizations and people to thrive postpandemic. Lyle Hanna and Candra Bryant from Hanna Resource Group will share top workplace trends that will continue to influence the future of work and discuss how you can remain resilient in your career in the face of accelerated change and new global challenges.





IVIF HANNA

CANDRA BRYANT



What's Brewing in the Bluegrass?

The craft scene is thriving in the Bluegrass and across the country, but these ain't your grandma's crafts! Craft beer, bourbon, wine and cider have not only made a splash on the social scene, but they've also contributed to significant economic growth and development on a regional level. Come learn why the Bluegrass is booming because of these creative, exciting, and ever-evolving industries. Moderated by Jayme Jackson (TOPS Magazine), this experienced panel includes Cynthia Bohn (Equus Run Winery), Derek DeFranco (Mirror Twin Brewing), Meredith Moody (Buffalo Trace Distillery), and Tim Wright (Wise Bird Cider Co.).









MOODY

TIM



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Check out a special Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass Pass Package discount when you purchase your ticket to EMERGE.



VIRTUAL EVENT

@330: Creating a Company Culture Where People Want to Work

PRESENTED BY



GOLD SPONSOR: ExecuTrain

During the next Commerce Lexington @330 Series event presented by Lexington Event Company on **Tuesday, March 15**, from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. via Zoom, we'll explore the ongoing workforce issue and present some ways to help your company become an employer of choice for workers.

In the current job market, there are thousands of openings available, which means that people can be very selective about what they want to do

and where they want to work. Companies should consider creating a culture and work environment where people want to work. It's a longer term solution, but it can be achieved by focusing on the employee experience.

Tracy Seely from ExecuTrain will talk about how business leaders are adjusting to the evolving workplace, and those changes are occuring even faster due to the ongoing pandemic. Things like flexible work schedules, remote working, quality parental leave policies, a shorter hiring process, incentives for both new hires and long-term employees, and unlimited time off have become almost as important as the pay for people considering a job offer.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

With over 20 years in education and publishing, Tracy Seely has experience in management, team building, professional development, strate-



TRACY SFFLY **EXECUTRAIN**

gic implementation, and company collaboration and culture. In addition, she has facilitated the implementation of learning strategies for synchronous and asynchronous learning pathways for clients and internal teams. Tracy has a Bachelor's in English and a Master's of Education in Curriculum and Instruction. Her roles have included National Training Manager and Director of Learning and Development and Quality Assurance.

TO REGISTER:

Commerce Lexington's @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. Once you register online at www.commercelexington.com, a Zoom link for the event will be included in the sign-up confirmation e-mail.

@330 SERIES:

WHEN: Tuesday, March 15, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

WHERE: Via Zoom

REGISTER: Register on-line for this Commerce Lexington members' only event

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MARCH 2022



Barney Miller's to Host Commerce Lex. Business Link on March 17 Help Us Celebrate Barney Miller's 100th Anniversary Downtown

The next Commerce Lexington Business Link networking event is set for **Thursday, March 17**, from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at **Barney Miller's (232 East Main Street)**. The event will enable participants to build their client base, connect with other business professionals and enjoy great food and drink. Bring plenty of business cards, and get ready to network your way to success.

This Business Link will also provide an opportunity for the community to recognize Barney Miller's for 100 years in business. A third generation electronics company, the business has been operating in Central Kentucky since 1922.

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 pre-register for Business Links on-line at **www.commercelexington.com**. NOTE: NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN FOR ONLINE REGISTRATIONS.

EXHIBIT SPACE:

There will be no exhibit space at this Business Link event. Check back for availability at a future Business Link.

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Special Guest: UK Basketball Legend Kenny "Sky" Walker!



Watch March tournament basketball on TV's throughout the showroom.

Gift bags for the first 50 attendees.

Open bar & appetizers!

Play Pop-A-Shot for a chance to win a home technology prize valued at \$1,000
Parking: Free in Chase Tower Garage or KU spots behind Barney Miller's after 5 p.m.









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

Following the success of the Austin Leadership Visit **presented by Central Bank & Trust Co.**, Commerce Lexington has announced that its annual intercity visit in 2022 will take Central Kentucky leaders to the Tampa-St. Petersburg, Florida region, **May 11 – 13**. 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.

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Commerce Lexington's 2022 Board Chair John Gohmann, Regional President of PNC Bank, said, "Tampa Bay's regional economy has several similarities to Central Kentucky and some key programs and initiatives that we can examine and compare ideas. I hope you'll consider joining our delegation for this important community and region-building intercity visit."

Registration is available on-line now for the 2022 trip at www.commercelexington.com/tampa-st-petersburg-2022.html.

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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 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 on-line at **https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1075603**.

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LEGISLATIVE SESSION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

statewide unemployment rate to help speed up the re-employment process; reduces 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.

Workforce: HB 499, sponsored by Rep. Samara Heavrin, creates the Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership to encourage employers to offer childcare assistance as a benefit to employees by offering a state match to the employer contribution. To participate in the partnership, employers voluntarily submit a contractual agreement with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. The bill allocates \$15 million in state funds for the program and sets aside 25 percent for small businesses. Childcare issues (access, cost, workforce) are one of the barriers to improving Kentucky's

workforce participation rate, especially for women. The average cost of childcare in Fayette County is \$6,500 - \$10,000 a year per child depending on age.

STAY CONNECTED:

Commerce Lexington urges its members to stay informed on policy issues. Regular email updates will be provided to members during the Legislative Session and the rest of the year to keep businesses updated on what's happening in City Hall, Frankfort and Washington, D.C. If you have questions, need assistance with a policy issue, or would like to get involved with advocacy efforts, contact Andi Johnson, Commerce Lexington's Chief Policy Officer & Director of Regional Engagement at ajohnson@commerce lexington.com.





Great Programming Continues for Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass

PRESENTED BY



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Blue & Co. LG&E & KU MELIA Realty Group

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Join the ELBG Steering Committee

The Steering Committee for Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass offers a unique opportunity for upand-comers in your organization and the community to take on a volunteer service role requiring them to learn hands-on leadership skills as they work with Commerce Lexington to plan and execute programming. If interested, please contact Amy Stout at astout@commercelexington.com.

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.

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 about Keeneland's economic impact in its world-renowned Sales Pavilion.
- Experience the grounds with a Keeneland tour guide.
- Meet with a Keeneland BETologist and learn how to place a winning bet!



EMERGE Conference + Emerging Leaders of the BG Pass Package:

For a limited time, emerging leaders interested in investing in ongoing professional development for the year ahead can receive a 25-percent discount on the cost of an Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass annual pass for the 2022-23 program year when they register for the EMERGE Conference coming up on March 8th. The annual pass year for Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass runs from April 2022 through March 2023. Passholders can attend a variety of events focused on professional development and community education held monthly and designed specifically for Emerging Leaders.

To take advantage of the discounted Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass annual pass package, go to **www.emergelexington.com** to register for the upcoming EMERGE Conference. You'll also find more information about the conference inside this issue on page 7. To learn more about Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass, visit **www.emergingleadersbg.com**.

Make Valuable Connections at Commerce Lexington Member Mixer

PRESENTED BY



GOLD SPONSOR:

Next Century Technologies

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.



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

(859) 221-5746.

HealthSolutions

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.

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**.

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.



Humana.



Leadership Central Kentucky Explores Uniqueness of Madison Co.

PRESENTED BY

PPL companies

Recap by Elizabeth Schepens, Kentucky League of Cities

In Madison County, the Leadership Central Kentucky class was hosted by Richmond Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Mendi Goble, who not only provided an interesting experience, but also shared her knowledge on tourism and business.

The class kicked off its day in Madison County with a message from Madison County Judge-Executive Reagan Taylor. Judge-Executive Taylor called class members to action by encouraging them to take an interest in their local governments, support their local leaders, and have their voice heard in Frankfort by engaging in dialogue with their legislators.

Sarah Marko, communications manager at the Bluegrass Army Depot, shared information regarding the process of the chemical demilitarization program that is currently underway. The class was interested to learn about the mission that is taking place in the region and how the revenue generated from the project is being used. Before leaving the Chamber, Dr. Virgil Grant led the class in conversations around change management and emotional wellness.

The class then drove by the Buc-ees Pit Stop that is under construction, and learned from Ms. Goble how Madison County became the future home of the award-winning convenience store/gas station. The group also visited the Artisan Center for a brief shopping experience before having a delicious lunch at Apollo's Pizza in Berea.

After lunch, the group headed to Eastern Kentucky University where they received a tour of the EKU Center for the Arts. In the Black Box Theater, EKU President David McFaddin shared his vision for the university, which is based on inclusion and trust.

The last presentation of the day was conducted by Kentucky State Police Sergeant Robert Purdy, who talked with the class about drugs "hiding in plain sight" and how each person's lives are similar to stacking rocks along a creekbank – each rock becomes the stack's foundation for the future.

The day in Madison County built on the foundation that has been laid over the preceding months as the participants continue to develop their leadership abilities, build relationships, discuss regionalism, and learn about the uniqueness of each county.





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Leadership Lexington Learns About Local Health Care Services

Excerpts of Recap by Shericka Smith, Fayette County Public Schools

Health & Human Services Day kicked off with an informative presentation from Michael Dossett, Director, Kentucky Emergency Management, followed by a virtual panel discussion by other leaders in healthcare. Although COVID forced this discussion to be virtual rather than in its original location at a local hospital, the goal of learning about the major challenges and resources from our healthcare field was met. The Commissioner of Social Services, Kacy Allen-Bryant, and CAO at the Health Department, Jessica Cobb, both shared similar healthcare needs, but were also able to speak about available programming for Lexington residents such as HANDS, a home visitation program for new and expectant mothers.

Prior to our small group visits around town, Alex Elswick, Co-Founder of Voices of Hope, shared his tragic, yet inspiring battle with addiction, leaving very few dry eyes in the room. What an amazing opportunity to meet a living example of transformation and hope. The day ended with the class splitting into six groups and visiting 12 different nonprofit agencies around Lexington. From a domestic violence shelter to a physical wellness center, each person in the class left with a glimpse of the widespread support in our city. We were left empowered and challenged to share these resources with others and help break the stigma that reaching out for help is not okay.



A group of Leadership Lexington class members visited GreenHouse17 during Health & Human Services Day.

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LEX History

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT: Sheila Carmack, Central Bank & Trust

As a retail lending officer at Central Bank's Tates Creek Centre branch, Sheila Carmack helps satisfy the borrowing needs of the businesses and individuals in the Tates Creek Centre area. She also introduces her clients to the Central Investment, Central Insurance, Central Bank Mortgage, Wealth Management, and Private Banking departments in order to provide them with solutions for any additional financial needs they may have.

Sheila said, "I have worked in banking centers throughout Lexington for the past 15 years. I enjoy helping my clients navigate each stage of their financial life. Some of the daily challenges we face in the retail area are staffing and the changing volume of transactions."

When asked about her involvement in Commerce Lexington, she said, "I enjoy helping businesses get connected with others to create win-win scenarios. Commerce Lexington helps all of us in Central Kentucky win by working together with business owners and leaders to make our community an excellent place to live and work."

Now in her second year of serving as an Ambassador, Sheila said she enjoyed getting to know the exceptional Commerce Lexington staff members and other Ambassadors last year, and is looking forward to meeting more members in person and helping them get the most from their membership in 2022.



SHEILA CARMACK

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 January 13 through February 15, 2022

America's CAR-MART, Inc.

Auto Dealers-Used Main Contact: Kevin Hawkins 399 E. New Circle Road Lexington, KY 40505 Phone: (859) 293-1488 www.car-mart.com

Athletico Physical Therapy

Physical Therapists
Main Contact: Lauran Dempsey
630 Euclid Ave., Suite 140
Lexington, KY 40502
Phone: (859) 303-9980
www.athletico.com

Balance Creative, LLC

Advertising Agencies Main Contact: David Caldwell 535 W. 2nd Street, Suite 204 Lexington, KY 40508 Phone: (859) 381-9510 www.balancecreative.net

Barrier Roofs

Roofing Contractors Main Contact: Justin Barrier 505 Euclid Ave. Lexington, KY 40502 Phone: (859) 251-5119 www.barrierroofs.com

Bin There Dump That Lexington

Garbage Removal
Main Contact: Carly Shaughnessy
3293 Lexington Rd.
Richmond, KY 40475
Phone: (859) 358-7800
https://lexington.bintheredumpthatusa.
com/home

Black Male Working Academy

Education-Training
Main Contact: Roszalyn Akins
3016 Bracktown Rd.
Lexington, KY 40511
Phone: (859) 227-2663
www.bmwacademyky.org

Bluegrass Dentistry

Dentists
Main Contact: Morgan Chambers
3475 Richmond Road, Suite 150
Lexington, KY 40509
Phone: (859) 396-7179
http://bluegrassdentistry.com

The Campbell House, Curio Collection by Hilton

Hotels/Motels
Main Contact: Kyle Stith
1375 South Broadway
Lexington, KY 40504
Phone: (859) 255-4281
www.thecampbellhouse.com

EJ's Appliance Repair

Appliances
Main Contact: Everett Johnson
1411 Windwood Ct.
Mount Sterling, KY 40353
Phone: (859) 404-4689
www.Ejsappliances.com

Forge Marketing Group LLC

Marketing Consultants/Services Main Contact: Dylan Harper 823 Press Ave., Apt. 9 Lexington, KY 40508 Phone: (678) 904-5474 www.forgemarketinggroup.com

Glenn's Freedom CDJR

Auto Dealers-New Cars
Main Contact: Tanya Stalion
1560 E New Circle Rd.
Lexington, KY 40509
Phone: (859) 268-7540
www.glennchryslerdodgejeeprom.com

Growth Solutions TeamRusiness Consultants

Main Contact: David Kelly
1187 Beaver Lake Rd.
Lawrenceburg, KY 40342
Phone: (443) 501-2201
https://growthsolutionsteam.com

Hardin Painting Co.

Painting Contractors
Main Contact: Stan Hardin
3732 Salisbury, Lexington, KY 40510
Phone: (859) 494-1213
www.paintingservicelexington.com

The Hayden Group, Inc.

Real Estate Main Contact: Tyrell Hayden 957 Woodglen Court Lexington, KY 40515 Phone: (859) 585-0047

Helios Aerosystems

Manufacturers-Engineering Main Contact: Alan Beaven 535 Lagonda Ave. Lexington, KY 40505 Phone: (502) 316-4750 www.heliosisrrack.com

Home2 Suites by Hilton

Hotels/Motels
Main Contact: Tammy Cyrus
1750 Pleasant Ridge Drive
Lexington, KY 40509
Phone: (859) 900-2333
www.hilton.com/en/hotels/lexhght-home2-suites-lexington-hamburg/

Jennifer Parsons - REALTOR - RE/MAX

Realtors

Main Contact: Jennifer Parsons 203 Ruccio Way Lexington, KY 40503 Phone: (859) 351-1747 www.facebook.com/jenniferparsons realtor

Julietta Market

Non-Profit Organizations
Main Contact: Adina Tatum
101 West Loudon Avenue, Suite #150
Lexington, KY 40508
Phone: (859) 379-2049
www.juliettamarket.com

Kentucky Pro DJ

Event Production
Main Contact: Jason Henninger
234 Walnut Hill Drive
Richmond, KY 40475
Phone: (859) 200-5156
www.kyprodj.com

Kentucky Society of Certified Public Accountants

Non-Profit Organizations Main Contact: Darlene Zibart 1735 Alliant Avenue Louisville, KY 40299 Phone: (502) 266-5272 www.kycpa.org

Lexington African-American Sports Hall of Fame

Non-Profit Organizations
Main Contact: Robert Jones
1588 Leestown Road, Ste. 130-312
Lexington, KY 40511
Phone: (859) 608-2175
www.laashof.com

Nick Ratliff Realty Team

Realtors Main Contact: Nick Ratliff 3101 Sunningdale Ct. Lexington, KY 40509 Phone: (859) 554-2075 www.NRRT.com

Puroclean of West Lexington

Fire, Water & Storm Restoration
Main Contact: Bridget Winfrey
133 North Locust Hill Drive, Suite 112
Lexington, KY 40509
Phone: (859) 436-1717
www.puroclean.com/lexington-ky-puroclean-west-lexington

Roberts Heavy Duty Towing, Inc.

Towing
Main Contact: Francois Theron
2285 Maggard Dr.
Lexington, KY 40511
Phone: (859) 294-5566
www.robertsheavydutytowing.com

NEW TOP INVESTOR

Rubicon Technologies LLC
Waste Management Reduction
& Disposal
Main Contact: Nate Morris
100 W. Main St., Suite 610
Lexington, KY 40507
Phone: (440) 708-6082
www.rubicon.com

Shippers Supply Company, Inc.

Wholesale Distributors
Main Contact: Jeffrey Nash
1735 West Burnett Avenue
Louisville, KY 40210
Phone: (502) 371-5308
www.ciservicesnow.com

Signature Club of Lansdowne Clubs

Main Contact: Patricia Wrich 3256 Lansdowne Drive Lexington, KY 40502 Phone: (859) 277-6600 www.signatureclub.org

Sterling Thompson Company

Equine Insurance
Main Contact: Jack Goldthorpe
3399 Tates Creek Road, Suite 210
Lexington, KY 40502
Phone: (502) 585-3277
www.sterlingthompson.com

Wendt's Wildlife Adventure

Entertainment
Main Contact: Julie Wendt
3740 Maysville Road
Carlisle, KY 40311
Phone: (859) 235-9873
www.facebook.com/WendtsWildlife

White Oak Commercial Real Estate

Real Estate
Main Contact: Gordy Hoagland
100 W. Main St., Suite 650
Lexington, KY 40507
Phone: (859) 269-1966
www.whiteoakcre.com

PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS



Corporate Moves, Company Awards and Notable Milestones

Several new agents have joined **The Agency**, including **Travis Trimble**, **Karolina Baker**, **Connie Schuermeyer**, **Betsy Bryant**, and **Susan Hammett**. Additionally, the following agents were recognized with Rate My Agent 2021 Awards, including **Sandy Allnutt** (Agent of The Year in Fayette County, Agent of The Year in Lexington, #2 Agent in Jessamine County, #2 Agent in Kentucky, and Top 100 Agents in the nation) and **Kristy Hall** (#4 Agent in Scott County). **Susie Basham** was recognized with LBAR's Good Neighbor of The Year Award 2021.

Chris Roty has been named president at **Baptist Health Lexington**, succeeding Bill Sisson, who passed away in December after more than 31 years as the hospital's president.

Blue Grass Airport: The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Airport Board has appointed Garyen Denning (CRM Companies) as chair of the board for 2022. Daniel Mason has been appointed as vice chair and treasurer, and Brian Wells has been appointed as secretary. In addition, Marc A. Mathews, CPA was welcomed as a new board member.

Oak View Group Facilities, which manages Lexington's **Central Bank Center**, named **Laura Alexander** as the facility's new vice president, convention center sales and operations. In her new role, she will lead efforts to reopen and rebrand the convention center.

CLARK Material Handling Company announced the appointment of **Brandon Bullard** as director of sales and marketing, and **David Lasnek** and **Justin Richardson** as regional sales managers.

Davis H. Elliot Company, Inc. (Elliot) recently promoted **Bryan Dowell** to vice president of Studio46 Media and **Kenny Keener** to vice president, operations administration.

Dean Dorton has been selected again as a member of the Bob Scott's VAR Stars for 2021. The VAR Stars list is a group of 100 organizations across the nation that are honored for their accomplishments in the field of midmarket financial software as Value Added Resellers (VAR).

Dentons Bingham Greenebaum recently promoted Sarah Laren to senior managing associate and Elizabeth Lampert to managing associate. In addition, five Dentons lawyers have been included on 2022 Kentucky Super Lawyers lists, including Anne A. Chesnut, Bruce E. Cryder, R. Clay Larkin and Phillip D. Scott as Super Lawyers and Sarah Laren as Rising Stars.

Two **Dickinson Wright PLLC** attorneys from the firm's Lexington office were named to 2022 Kentucky Super Lawyers list, including **Brian M.**

Johnson and **David A. Owen**. Meanwhile, **Logan J. Mayfield** was recognized on this year's Rising Stars list, which highlights the top up-and-coming attorneys in the state.

GRW named **Joe Pavoni** as new manager of its Kentucky Water Resources Division.

The **Kentucky Distillers' Association** announced that **Annie Franklin** has been named as director of member services.

Lexington Insurance Agency is celebrating 70 years of serving the community's insurance needs. The agency was founded in 1952 by Garvis Kincaid, who also founded Central Bank & Trust. It was purchased in 2004 by four of the company's agents. Five years later, the agency joined the Keystone Insurers Group, one of the largest independent agencies in the country.

The Lexington Public Library announced recent personnel and leadership changes. Kevin Imai, SHRM-SCP has been named as human resources director while chairing the library's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force. Ashley Sipple-McGraw re-joins the library as Eastside Branch Manager. Lori Davis, J.D. will serve as workforce development manager. The library also announced the following promotions: AnnaMarie Cornett to chief of staff; Jonathan Francis to marketing manager; and Jamie West to learning and development manager. Additionally, Stephanie Nallia was appointed to the library's Board of Trustees, where she will serve as a member of the Budget & Finance Committee.

Lexmark International has been named a Leader in Global Print Security by global print and market insight research firm Quocirca based on its strong strategic vision and comprehensive print security product and service offering.

Several McBrayer attorneys have been recognized as Kentucky Super Lawyers and Kentucky Rising Stars in the 2022 edition of Thomson Reuters Super Lawyers. Lexington attorneys on the Super Lawyers list included Stephen G. Amato, Jaron P. Blandford, James H. Frazier, III, David J. Guarnieri, Douglas T. Logsdon, Robert E. Maclin, III, and Luke A. Wingfield. Guarnieri was also ranked among Top 50 Kentucky Super Lawyers. Making the Rising Stars list from the Lexington office were Kathryn A. Eckert, Courtney M. Hampton, Jason Hollon, Anne-Tyler Morgan, T. Neal Morris, Trevor Nichols, Scott Schuette, Cassidy Sorrells, and Preston Clark Worley.

McBrayer announced the addition of **Evelyn Latta**, who joins the firm's litigation group in its Lexington office as an associate.

Omni Architects' Eric Zabilka, AIA, has been named as president of the firm following the retirement of Michael W. Jacobs, FAIA, who contributed his influence to over 250 projects throughout the Commonwealth and designed 23 of the firm's 31 AIA Kentucky Awards for Design Excellence, which are juried by nationally recognized architectural peers.

Rose Grasch Camenisch Mains PLLC recently welcomed Howard Ball and Laura Shahan as new associates.

Taylor Sears, COO of **Silent Guard Security**, was recognized as one of the 40-Under-40 security professionals from *Security Systems News*.

Stites & Harbison, PLLC announced that Lexington attorneys Megan George and Taylor Stuckey have been promoted to Members (Partners) within the law firm, while Brady W. Dunnigan joined the firm's Lexington office.

Several **Stites & Harbison, PLLC** attorneys were honored in the 2022 edition of *Kentucky Super Lawyers*, including Lexington attorneys **J. Clarke Keller** and **Ashley W. Ward** as Super Lawyers, and **Rebecca M.W. Sherman** and **Alison M. Zeitlin** as Rising Stars.

Studio Walz, Inc. is celebrating its 30-year anniversary serving Lexington with professional family, business and commercial photography. Owners **Scott and Valorie Walz** would like to thank the residents and businesses of Lexington and the surrounding communities for their patronage.

Ten Sturgill, Turner, Barker & Moloney, PLLC attorneys have been recognized in the 2022 edition of *Kentucky Super Lawyers*. Stephen L. Barker, Charles D. Cole, Andrew D. DeSimone, Kevin G. Henry, and Phillip M. Moloney were all named Super Lawyers. Attorneys Jennifer Batista Dominicci, Donald C. Morgan, Jessica R. Stigall, Langdon Ryan Worley, and Stephanie M. Wurdock were named Super Lawyers Rising Stars. Additionally, the firm welcomed two new attorneys, including Jennifer Batista Dominicci and Josh J. Owen.

WealthSouth: Gordon Mullis was named director of compliance, while **Cassie Scott** was promoted to vice president, director of operations.

SUBMIT PERSONNEL NEWS:

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



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COMMERCE LEXINGTON CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2022:

- **EMERGE Conference presented by Forcht Bank**, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at Central Bank Center. SEE PAGE 7
- Leadership Lexington presented by McBrayer PLLC: Economic Development Day Session.
- **@330 Series presented by Lexington Event Company**, 3:30 4:30 p.m. via Zoom. SEE PAGE 8
- 16 Leadership Central Kentucky presented by LG&E & KU at Woodford County.
- Opportunity Exchange presented by Equity Solutions Group, 4:30 6:30 p.m. at The Campbell House.

- SEE PAGE 5

Business Link sponsored and hosted by Barney Miller's, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. - SEE PAGE 9

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
- Member Mixer presented by MELIA Realty Group, 10:00 11:15 a.m. via Zoom. SEE PAGE 14
- Leadership Lexington presented by McBrayer PLLC: Diversity Day Session.
- 20 Leadership Central Kentucky presented by LG&E & KU at Clark County.

MAY 2022:

Leadership Visit to Tampa-St. Petersburg, FL presented by Central Bank & Trust Co. - SEE PAGE 11

COVID PROTOCOL:

Based on CDC recommendations, Commerce Lexington recommends participants at its indoor events wear face coverings, except when eating or drinking.