

# Business Focus

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF COMMERCE LEXINGTON INC. | APRIL/MAY 2026 | VOLUME XXXIV, ISSUE III

## The Federal Reserve: How the Business Community Can Assist in Decision Making

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**2026-27 LEADERSHIP LEXINGTON APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW!**

### END OF AN ERA:

Commerce Lexington  
President & CEO  
Bob Quick Announces  
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**NOTE:** Members of the Executive Board also serve on the Board of Directors.

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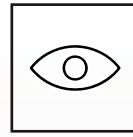
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# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Submitted by Gina Greathouse, Niki Goldey, Hannah Jackson, Falon McFarland, and Cheryl Weiss

## Positioning Greater LEX for Future Success: Advancing Key Industries

In the previous issue of *Business Focus*, we highlighted the strength of Greater Lexington’s BioPharma sector and the initiatives underway to support its continued expansion. With this edition focused on the financial industry, we are shifting the spotlight to strategic marketing efforts designed to elevate awareness of Lexington as a premier business hub for this sector, as well as the ongoing work our team does to support the companies that form Lexington’s business and financial services ecosystem.

Commerce Lexington’s economic development strategy centers on advancing seven key industries essential to long-term economic vitality of the Greater Lexington Region:

- **Advanced Manufacturing & Automotive**
- **AgBio & AgTech**
- **BioPharma**
- **Business & Financial Services**
- **Marketing & Design Services**
- **Food & Beverage Processing**
- **Warehouse & Logistics**

### The Business & Financial Services Landscape in Lexington:

Lexington’s business and financial services sector encompass a wide range of activities, including accounting, insurance, banking, investment services, and consulting. Core offerings such as commercial banking, tax preparation, asset management, and financial technology (FinTech) play an essential role in supporting business creation, growth, and day-to-day operations.

A combination of low operating costs, strong accessibility, a business friendly environment, and outstanding quality of life makes Greater Lexington an attractive location for these types of firms. Today, our region is home to more than seventy headquarters operations and supports nearly 20,000 professionals working in business and financial services.

### Supporting Business Growth & Attraction:

Our economic development team is committed to ensuring that local companies have the resources they need to succeed—and that Lexington remains top of mind for new investment.

- **Cheryl Weiss**, Director of Business Expansion and Retention, meets with 125+ local companies each year to support their growth and address emerging needs.
- **Niki Goldey**, Director of New Business Development, connects annually with more than 125 consultants and site selectors to attract new business opportunities within this sector.



### Showcasing Lexington’s Competitive Advantages:

Our latest marketing initiative features a **new video** spotlighting **Lori Flees**, CEO of Valvoline, as she shares the advantages of locating and growing a business in Greater Lexington. Her insights reinforce what many Lexington based companies already recognize and highlight the opportunities we want other business and professional services firms to discover: Lexington offers the talent, infrastructure, and supportive environment needed to thrive in a competitive marketplace.



LORI FLEES



JON CALDWELL

Commerce Lexington is proud to have **Jon Caldwell**, Senior Vice President and Chief People Officer at Valvoline, serving on our Board of Directors. His leadership and vision continue to strengthen our mission to drive economic growth throughout the Greater Lexington Region.

SCAN TO WATCH VIDEO →





## Commerce Lex. President & CEO Bob Quick Announces Retirement

Commerce Lexington President and CEO Bob Quick has announced plans to retire. His final day is targeted for July 31, 2026. Under Quick's leadership, the chamber of commerce, economic development and workforce entities merged in 2004. Other initiatives launched during his tenure include the nine-county Regional Competitiveness Initiative, the Commerce Lexington Foundation, Access Loan Program and Greater Lexington's Washington D.C. Fly-In.

"Bob is a man of high integrity who knows how to pull people together to find solutions to our biggest issues," said Commerce Lexington Board Chair Nick Nicholson, who is a member of Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC. "Lexington would not be where it is today without his tireless efforts promoting our city and region. Bob will be deeply missed, but he has attracted and mentored a phenomenal staff, and I know he will continue to serve this community in other ways."

Quick also helped expand and enhance internal programs, including economic development tools, public policy programming



Photo by Mahan Multimedia

and advocacy, talent attraction, strategic partnerships, marketing, and community and minority business development. Those improvements culminated in Commerce Lexington being named national Chamber of the Year by the Association of Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives in 2016.

"It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve this organization and to work alongside

such dedicated leaders, partners and members of our business community," Quick said. "I've been fortunate to serve in the chamber of commerce/economic development profession for 37-plus years. It has truly been an honor to serve 25 of those years at Commerce Lexington. The time entrusted to me has been well spent. During this span we've encountered growth, collaboration, challenge and progress. Together, we have strengthened relationships, championed our businesses and helped shape a thriving environment for those we serve."

Quick and his wife, Julie, plan to stay in Lexington, where all three of their children also live.



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# EVENTS

APRIL 16 | 4:30 - 6:30 P.M. (NOTE LATER TIME)

## Enjoy a Night at the Ballpark When Lexington Legends Host Business Link

Spring in Greater Lexington means flowers blooming, Thoroughbred horse racing, and of course the start of a new baseball season for the Lexington Legends of the Atlantic League, a Partner League of Major League Baseball.

During the next Commerce Lexington Business Link event hosted by the Lexington Legends (207 Legends Lane) on **Thursday, April 16**, from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., participants will not only find great networking and client-building opportunities, but each attendee will receive a complimentary ticket to that evening's exhibition baseball game.

Get a look at the hard-charging baseball action on the diamond, while

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experiencing some of the unique spaces available for company outings and private events, like the Lexington Brewing & Distillery Co Taproom, the Lexington Lounge, Pepsi Party Deck, Hicks & Funfsinn Stables, luxury suites, and more.

### TO REGISTER:

The cost to attend is \$10 for Commerce Lexington members, \$15 for non-members (payable at the door). You can also pre-register on-line at [commercelexington.com](http://commercelexington.com). **NOTE: NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN FOR ON-LINE REGISTRATIONS.**



Des Moines, Iowa

### 2026 LEADERSHIP VISIT

## Delegation to Study Des Moines, Iowa, June 10-12

Commerce Lexington has announced that the **2026 Leadership Visit** presented by **Central Bank** will take

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us to **Des Moines, Iowa**, from **June 10-12**. Greater Des Moines (DSM) is vibrant, growing, and experiencing tremendous momentum. It appears on many of the same top economic rankings as the Greater Lexington region. Metrics such as gross domestic product growth, population growth and employment growth show DSM as one of the fastest-growing and strongest metros in the Midwest. Register on-line now at [commercelexington.com](http://commercelexington.com). Full registration includes charter air travel, meals as outlined in the agenda, and two nights' accommodations at Hotel Fort Des Moines (1000 Walnut St., Des Moines, IA 50309).

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Kyle Miller



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## Financial Sector Strengthens Economy, Provides Essential Services

**Written by Mark Turner, Commerce Lexington**

The Greater Lexington Region is a global hub for professional and financial services, offering essential support for various industries and driving economic growth. With more than 20,000 people employed regionally in the business and financial services sector, it's an important strategic target for Commerce Lexington's economic development efforts.

For many years, the financial services sector has been an important factor in the growth of the city and the business activities of the Chamber of Commerce. According to a book by William M. Ambrose entitled *First Security National Bank & Trust Company* and cited by the Lexington History Museum, the Kentucky Insurance Company indirectly became the first banking institution in Lexington when it was "granted a charter by the General Assembly to insure riverboats and barges on the state's rivers" in 1802. "Allegedly, by mistake, its charter also authorized the issuance of notes (depository receipts payable on presentment at the counters of the company). These receipts were backed by gold and silver reserves in the company's vaults. The insurance company's notes were soon accepted as a convenient form of currency and began to circulate in Lexington and the surrounding towns."

Lexington's business and financial services sector encompass a wide range of activities, including accounting, insurance, banking, investment services, and consulting. Core offerings such as commercial banking, tax preparation, asset management, and financial technology (FinTech) play an essential role in supporting business creation, growth, and day-to-day operations.

Many financial services companies invest in Commerce Lexington's events, economic development activities, talent and workforce initiatives, advocacy efforts, and more. Our Access Loan small business financing program includes representatives from 26 financial institutions who regularly review business plans for those looking to grow their business. Since its inception in 2001, that program has facilitated nearly \$26 million in loans for small businesses across the region.

More than that, though, many professionals in the financial sector serve on multiple boards and committees, while giving generously to charitable causes across our region. They sponsor events, and volunteer their time for all sorts of nonprofits. We appreciate all that they do to make our community and region better.

Within the Commerce Lexington membership, the financial sector is comprised of accountants, banks, consultants, credit unions, financial planning and services, insurance, investment

banking and management, payroll services, tax returns preparation, trust companies, and many more. You'll find these and other financial services in our member business directory on-line at [commercelexington.com](http://commercelexington.com) or **scan the QR code**.



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## The Federal Reserve: Leading the Way on U.S. Monetary Policy How the Business Community Plays an Important Role in The Fed's Decision Making

Image: Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland



### Julianne Dunn Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland

Julianne Dunn oversees the local operations of the Cincinnati Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, which represents the Fourth Federal Reserve District, encompassing all of Ohio, the eastern half of Kentucky, and parts of Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

A native of Eaton Rapids, Michigan, a small, rural town south of Lansing, Dunn majored in international studies at The Ohio State University. Her interest in economics came when she took an international economics class while studying abroad in Barcelona, Spain. She eventually earned a master's degree in economics and international relations from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University.

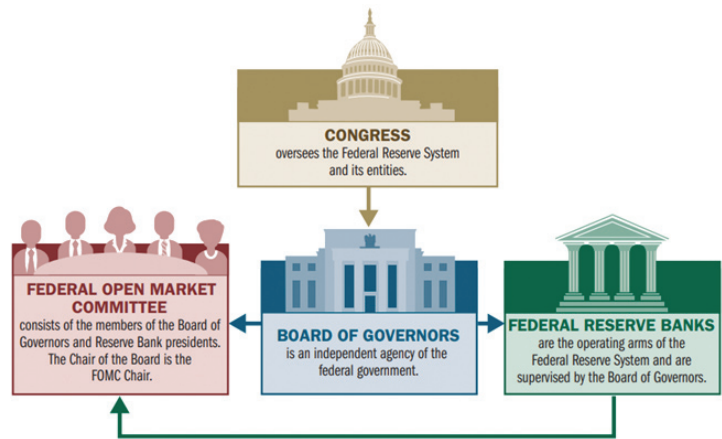
In her role, she covers a lot of territory - 83 counties from Mercer County, Ohio to Pike County, Kentucky - gathering on-the-ground insights about how people are experiencing the economy and sharing them with Bank president, Beth Hammack, to help her represent the Fourth District at the FOMC table.

Dunn said, "I genuinely love seeing the District, learning how different businesses work and how communities are innovating to solve local challenges."

#### Compiled by Mark Turner, Commerce Lexington

The Federal Reserve System is talked about often in national media when it comes to reporting on the economy, but many people don't realize the different duties of the twelve Federal Reserve Banks, its presidents, and the Governors of the Federal Reserve Board. In a recent interview, **Julianne Dunn**, Regional Executive for the Cincinnati Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, discussed the structure of the Federal Reserve System, how it decides monetary policy, and the importance of feedback and insight from businesses.

**NOTE:** The views expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland or the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

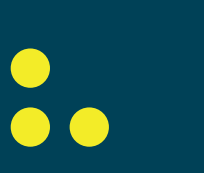


### About the Federal Reserve System:

The Federal Reserve System is the U.S. central bank. It was created by Congress under the Federal Reserve Act of 1913 to establish a monetary system that could respond effectively to stresses in the banking system. "The Fed," as it's known colloquially, includes the Board of Governors - a federal agency located in Washington, D.C. - and 12 Federal Reserve Banks around the nation. The Fed conducts the nation's monetary policy, promotes financial system stability, supervises and regulates financial institutions, fosters payment and settlement system safety and efficiency, and promotes consumer protection and community development.

### What is the FOMC - Federal Open Market Committee?

The seven politically-appointed Governors of the Federal Reserve Board and 12 Reserve Bank presidents come together at meetings of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) at least eight times a year to decide monetary policy, which influences interest rates and credit conditions. The FOMC makes all decisions regarding the appropriate "stance" of monetary policy to help move the economy toward the congressionally mandated goals of maximum employment and price stability. When necessary, the FOMC changes the stance of monetary policy primarily by raising or lowering its target range for the federal funds rate - an interest rate for overnight borrowing by banks. A change in the federal funds rate normally affects, and is accompanied by, changes in other interest rates and financial conditions more broadly. Those changes then affect the spending decisions of households and businesses and thus have implications for economic activity, employment, and inflation.



## Business Feedback and Insight Help Shape The Fed’s Decisions

Dunn said that one of her main responsibilities is keeping the pulse on regional economic conditions. This includes supporting the Bank’s surveys, managing three of the nine Cleveland Fed Business Advisory Councils, and meeting individually with business and community leaders.

### Business Outlook & Trends Survey:

The Business Outlook and Trends Survey (BOTS) is a short, simple survey of business leaders conducted by the Cleveland Fed in partnership with chambers of commerce and similar organizations.



### Why is it important for business leaders to complete the BOTS survey?

- **Inform monetary policy:** Your on-the-ground insights help shape decisions that directly impact interest rates, credit conditions, and the economic environment your business operates in.
- **Contribute to competitive intelligence:** Aggregated data from peer businesses allows you to benchmark your experience against regional trends—helping you make more informed strategic decisions about hiring, investment, and more.
- **Amplify the region’s voice:** With participation from a wide range of businesses, the Cleveland Fed can provide more accurate, representative data to organizations like Commerce Lexington, strengthening the region’s ability to advocate for its economic interests.

Commerce Lexington partners with the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland to distribute the BOTS survey to businesses. **The next BOTS survey will open on May 20 and close on June 10.**

### Learn More About The Federal Reserve

The Cleveland Fed’s Speakers Bureau offers access to experts who can offer insight on a broad range of topics, including the national and regional economic outlook. If you are interested in joining the Cleveland Fed’s information-sharing network, or if you have general questions about the Federal Reserve or the economy, contact:

**Julianne Dunn**  
**Regional Executive, Cincinnati Branch**  
**Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland**  
**E-mail: [julianne.dunn@clev.frb.org](mailto:julianne.dunn@clev.frb.org)**  
**Web: [www.clevelandfed.org](http://www.clevelandfed.org)**

### Latest BOTS Survey Results (Dec. 2025):

The responses from the latest BOTS suggest that businesses in the Federal Reserve’s Fourth District were generally optimistic; more than half expected to see increased customer demand in the next six months. Most firms reported holding staffing levels steady, though more than a third expected to increase staffing levels in the coming months. Labor quality and availability was most frequently cited as the largest constraint to growth in our full sample. Cost pressures continue, with 71-percent of respondents indicating higher nonlabor costs over the last six months.

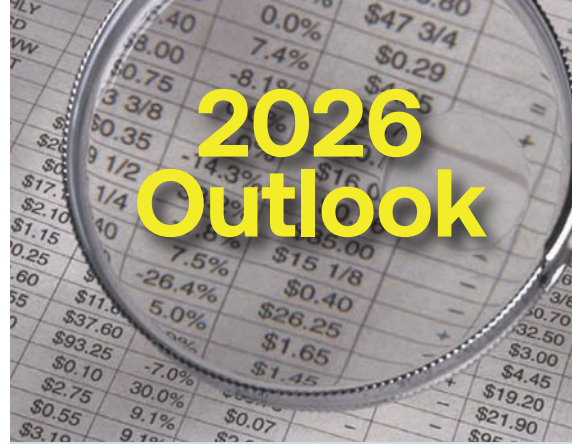
The responses received through Commerce Lexington’s marketing efforts pointed to a **regional economy that was somewhat more stable than other parts of our District.** That is, more respondents indicated “no change” in customer demand and staffing levels over the prior six months. A larger share of Commerce Lexington respondents reported an increase in nonlabor costs, while responses about pricing were similar to the full sample. Notably, the share of respondents in the Lexington region that indicated labor quality and availability were the biggest constraint to growth was much smaller relative to the broader District. **(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE →)**

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## Small Business Credit Survey Opens in September:

The Small Business Credit Survey (SBCS) is an annual survey of businesses with fewer than 500 employees from across the United States. The survey captures and amplifies the anonymized voices of small business owners on pressing topics related to business conditions and credit access, including financial and operational challenges, banking relationships, labor market dynamics, and other rotating topics. As the only source of national data on the demand, experiences, and outcomes in the small business credit market, the SBCS fills a gap in the small business data landscape.

The SBCS is distributed in a similar manner to the BOTS, via the marketing efforts of partner organizations including Commerce Lexington. By taking the survey, respondents help researchers at the Federal Reserve elevate the voices of small businesses across the country. SBCS data are vital to policymakers and small business service organizations in identifying issues and shaping programs that support the small business sector. **Commerce Lexington will distribute the SBCS survey to members when it opens up in September 2026.** See the latest report at [FedSmallBusiness.org](https://www.fedsmallbusiness.org).

## Cleveland Fed's Business Advisory Councils:

Dunn oversees three of the Bank's nine Business Advisory Councils (BAC): the Southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky BAC, the Dayton Area BAC, and the Eastern Kentucky BAC. Each council comprises thought leaders from diverse businesses, economic development organizations, and labor groups representing their region's economy. "What makes these councils particularly valuable is the real-time nature of their insights. We time the meetings to occur shortly before an FOMC meeting, so the information is as fresh as possible when it reaches the decision-making table," said Dunn. "While official statistics can lag by weeks or months, these leaders tell us what's happening right now—and more importantly, why. That qualitative context helps us interpret the quantitative data we're seeing and spot emerging trends earlier."

Commerce Lexington President and CEO Bob Quick has served on the Bank's Eastern Kentucky Business Advisory Council - which meets in Lexington - since 2013.

### What economic data does the Fed examine to make economic forecasts for business leaders and the public?

Dunn said, "Federal Reserve researchers examine a wide range of indicators to assess the state of the regional and national economy. These include official statistics from government and private sources and qualitative information collected through surveys and conversations with the public. Notably, this qualitative information is compiled in the Beige Book, which is frequently cited during FOMC press conferences."

### At the Economic Outlook Conference in February, you noted that the national economy was on "solid footing" to start 2026. What data gives you optimism? What data concerns you?

"One of the main drivers of my optimism about the economy in 2026 is reports from our business contacts who say that clients have begun to advance previously delayed projects as policy and economic uncertainties diminish," said Dunn. "The latest Survey of Regional Conditions and Expectations (SORCE) published by the Cleveland Fed indicates that business leaders maintain a positive outlook: The expected business conditions index rebounded in recent periods, and 44-percent of respondents to the February 2026 survey indicated that they expect customer demand to increase in the coming months."

"Labor market data shows mixed signals, but overall conditions remain favorable. Nationally, payroll gains slowed in 2025, but the unemployment rate remains low. Still, the job openings rate has fallen below pre-pandemic levels, and household perceptions of the labor market have weakened. Similarly, consumer sentiment measures have fallen in recent years, despite continued growth in household spending. While I might not classify these as concerns, I am watching this data closely."

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## The Visitors Guide to the Bluegrass

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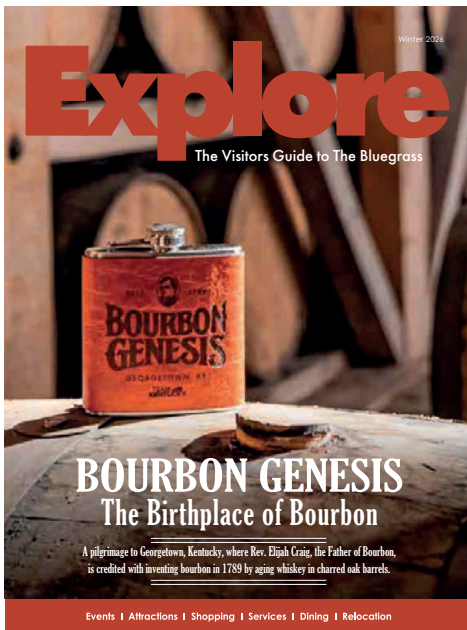
#### Tourism Market

Average of 3,000,000  
Visitors per year



#### Local Market

Average of 500,000  
Residents in the Bluegrass



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# SALUTE TO SMALL BUSINESS



## 2026 Salute to Small Business Awards Applications Open May 1st

Commerce Lexington began honoring the contributions that small businesses have on our economy in 1986, and since that very first Salute to Small Business event, the impact of small businesses has become more important than ever. How does your small business or nonprofit stack up against the area's best? Commerce Lexington's Salute to Small Business Awards program recognizes the area's best small businesses and one outstanding nonprofit organization.

Commerce Lexington President and CEO, Bob Quick, said, "Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, leading the way nationally in job creation, innovation, and creativity. Most of our members are in fact small businesses that are there for us every day providing great products and services. It takes a special person to be a small business owner, and our Salute to Small Business Awards program enables the community to recognize their hard work and great sacrifice."

### Award Categories:

- Excellence in Minority Business
- Business Success
- Achievement in Entrepreneurship
- Nonprofit Community Impact Award

### Award Eligibility:

- Businesses must be active members of Commerce Lexington
- Businesses must have completed three (3) or more full years of operation in the local market with fewer than 150 employees.
- Small businesses can apply for one award category.
- Past Category and overall Small Business of the Year award recipients are not eligible to reapply for 5 years from the date of their award presentation.

**Award applications will open on Friday, May 1, 2026.** Category award winners are recognized at the Salute to Small Business Awards Luncheon in August.



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## Leading With Vision: Highlights from Leadership Lexington Arts Day

### Excerpts of Article by Bailey Milam, Kentucky Event Company

Throughout the day, we saw this reflected in every corner of Lexington. Whether it was the artwork showcased in the East End, the rich history brought to life at the Lexington Children's Theatre, or a hidden gem that was once a movie theater and is now Lex Studios, the impact of the arts was undeniable.

The day began with an exciting, vibrant, high-energy performance by Mariachi Escudo de Bryan Station High School - Kentucky's first public mariachi. After being serenaded, the class was put to the test on their flexibility. We were invited to join Allegro Dance Project in a movement and exercise session, where we learned that every body can move.

After an exciting morning, the momentum continued as we toured East End. Learning about visual art by Kiptoo and the inspiration behind the sculptures. We also learned how Mark Johnson supports local artists in teaching them markable skills, how to appraise art, and communicate with galleries. Then, we ventured to explore Artists' Village, a specialized live/work community in the historic East End designed for artists, creatives, and makers.

At Lex Studios, we welcomed Tim Kirkman and David Gerhard for the panel discussion. The class gained insight into the day-to-day lives of



(Photo by Christina Meadows, Mahan Multimedia)

film and animation artists, how to support the art, and how they are sharing their knowledge with the youth. One of the most powerful lessons from this panel was the importance of resilience in the arts.

We ended the day at the Lexington Children's Theatre with a brief overview of Opera Lex and an interactive lesson of the American Spiritual Ensemble founded by Dr. Everett McCorvey. Later, we were split into two rotating groups. One group learned about the history, impact, and mission behind Lexington Children's Theatre and participated in an acting exercise, while the other group learned from our very own classmate, Lyndy Smith, Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Lexington Theatre Company.

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## Applications Open for 2026-27 Leadership Lexington, Due May 1st

Applications are available now for Commerce Lexington's nationally-recognized leadership development program called **Leadership Lexington presented by Community Trust Bank**. Since 1979, this program has been cultivating Lexington leaders, producing more than 1,800 graduates from this impactful leadership development program that has enhanced our city in areas such as youth mentoring, public art, healthy living, hunger relief, community engagement, and more.

The program gives participants the opportunity to better understand our city and to prepare for the challenges it faces by meeting with and learning from today's leaders. Leadership Lexington is an educational opportunity that broadens perspectives and allows participants to gain increased understanding of community dynamics and public issues.

Class members meet in different locations around the area each month with a specific program topic covered by expert speakers, tours, group activities, and class discussions. Day sessions include topics such as government, education, public safety, economic development, arts, equine, health and human

services, and people, culture and community.

As part of the program, class members participate in community projects where they practice and apply leadership skills in group experiences, work with community leaders, gain in-depth understanding of a community organization and/or community need and make a positive difference in the lives of others. Project work is done outside of regular day session meetings.

### HOW TO APPLY:

Applications for the 2026-27 Leadership Lexington program are available on-line at [www.commercelexington.com/leadership-lexington.html](http://www.commercelexington.com/leadership-lexington.html), with **completed applications due by Friday, May 1, 2026**. Residents and individuals who work in the Lexington area are eligible to apply for Leadership Lexington. Applicants must be employed by firms that are active members of Commerce Lexington. For more information, contact Tyra Harbut at (859) 226-1610 or [tharbut@commercelexington.com](mailto:tharbut@commercelexington.com).

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New Commerce Lexington Members & Top Investors From January 25 to March 16, 2026

## NEW SILVER LEVEL PREMIER PARTNER

### Artemis Solutions

*Business Consultants*  
Contact: Sarah Pickering  
190 Market Street  
Lexington, KY 40507  
Phone: (859) 514-2979  
www.artemisvf.com

### Besten & Dieruf, PLLC

*Accountants*  
Contact: Chris Besten  
190 Market Street  
Lexington, KY 40507  
Phone: (859) 254-4427  
https://bestenanddieruf.com

### The Ingram Group

*Government Relations/  
Lobbying*  
Contact: Amanda Bunning  
Kelsey  
875 15th St. NW, Sixth Floor  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone: (615) 345-9200  
www.ingramgroup.com

### Pelycon Technologies

*IT Consulting/Technical  
Staffing*  
Contact: Nick Conness  
162 Old Todds Rd., Ste. 220  
Lexington, KY 40509  
Phone: (859) 414-6789  
www.pelycon.com

## NEW BRONZE LEVEL PREMIER PARTNERS

### Kentucky Bankers Association

*Associations*  
Contact: Timothy Schenk  
600 W. Main St., Suite 400  
Louisville, KY 40202  
Phone: (502) 582-2453  
www.kybanks.com

### LeafSpring Schools of KY

*Schools-Preschool/  
Kindergarten*  
Contact: Mike Eichberger  
1733 Harrodsburg Road  
Lexington, KY  
Phone: (502) 807-0209  
https://leafspring-  
beaumont.com

### Affinity Media & Public Relations

*Public Relations Counsel*  
Contact: Dan Koett  
880 Calypso Breeze Drive  
Lexington, KY 40515  
Phone: (859) 797-3646  
www.framingournarrative.com

### Bartlett Tree Experts

*Tree Service*  
Contact: Megan Seifert  
734 Price Avenue  
Lexington, KY 40508  
Phone: (859) 556-1955  
www.bartlett.com

### Bim Group

*Employee Benefits  
Consultants/Programs*  
Contact: Elyse Bandy  
1151 Red Mile Road  
Lexington, KY 40504  
Phone: (859) 255-9455  
https://bimgroup.us

### Bluegrass Health Psychology, Inc.

*Psychologists*  
Contact: Jonathan Cole  
2220 Young Dr., Lexington, KY 40505  
Phone: (859) 277-1008  
www.bluegrasshealthpsychology.com

### BNI Kentucky

*Associations*  
Contact: Cheri McMullin  
Lexington, KY  
Phone: (859) 940-6483  
https://bnikentucky.com

### Castle Insurance

*Insurance & Financial Planning*  
Contact: Kris Castle  
210 Bevins Lane, Suite F  
Georgetown, KY 40324  
Phone: (502) 603-0397  
www.castleinsuranceky.com

### Corto Lima LLC

*Restaurants*  
Contact: TJ Cox  
101 W. Short St.  
Lexington, KY 40507  
Phone: (859) 317-8796  
www.cortolima.com

### Corvin's Flooring

*Floor Coverings*  
Contact: Paola Corvin  
201 Southland Drive  
Lexington, KY 40503  
Phone: (859) 880-6535  
www.flooringofky.com

### Cosmic Information System, LLC

*IT Consulting/Technical Staffing*  
Contact: Suresh Adhikari  
Lexington, KY  
Phone: (502) 768-6801  
www.cosmicis.com

### D1 Training Lexington

*Fitness Centers*  
Contact: Adam Reel  
2573 Richmond Road, Suite 150  
Lexington, KY 40509  
Phone: (859) 800-6410  
https://d1training.com/facility/lexington

### Diventures

*Scuba*  
Contact: Charlynn Andrews  
2549 Regency Rd., Suite 104  
Lexington, KY 40503  
Phone: (859) 277-1234  
http://diventures.com/locations/lexington

### dupree catering & events

*Caterers*  
Contact: Chef Jeremy Ashby  
201 E. Main Street, Suite 1500  
Lexington, KY 40507  
Phone: (859) 231-0464  
https://dupreecatering.com

### Dupree Mutual Funds

*Financial Services*  
Contact: Allen Grimes, III  
125 South Mill Street, Suite 100  
Lexington, KY 40507  
Phone: (859) 254-7741  
https://dupree-funds.com

### Eden Companies

*Construction Management*  
Contact: Emily Mattingly  
Lexington, KY

### Elevate Arts KY, Inc

*Non-Profit Organizations*  
Contact: Gregory Turay  
828 Lane Allen Road, Suite 210  
Lexington, KY 40504  
Phone: (917) 748-0079  
www.elevateartsky.com

### ENCON Equipment

*Construction Equipment*  
Contact: Rachel Judd  
140 Hendren Way  
Nicholasville, KY 40356  
Phone: (859) 885-0708  
www.enconequipment.com

### Evolv

*Credit/Debit Card Processing*  
Contact: Brad Hollar  
Phone: (859) 338-5452  
www.poweredbyevolv.com

### Full Court Social

*Marketing Consultants/Services*  
Contact: TJ Barnett  
333 E. Main Street, Suite 160  
Lexington, KY 40507  
Phone: (502) 345-5359  
www.fullcourtsocial.com

### Fullers Family Home Care

*Personal Care Services*  
Contact: Michelle Fuller  
3167 Custer Dr., Suite 102  
Lexington, KY 40517  
Phone: (859) 298-5629  
www.fullersfamilyhomecare.com

### Glare Control Window Tinting & Graphics

*Window Tinting*  
Contact: Terri Berish  
863 Bennett Ave., Lexington, 40508  
Phone: (859) 760-5031  
https://glarecontrol.com

### HOTWORX

*Fitness Centers*  
Contact: Emily Shockley  
2985 Liberty Rd., 14101  
Lexington, KY 40509  
Phone: (870) 530-2442  
www.hotworx.net/studio/lexington-  
hamburg

### Independent Restoration Services

*Fire, Water & Storm Restoration*  
Contact: Nick Harris  
121 Dewey Dr., Unit B  
Nicholasville, KY 40356  
Phone: (859) 963-3039  
www.irs-859.com

### Jerry's Car Wash

*Car Washing & Polishing*  
Contact: Jeremy Holbrook  
Lexington, KY  
Phone: (859) 948-6688  
https://washatjerrys.com

### JHawley Consulting

*Consultants*  
Contact: Jonathan Hawley  
Lexington, KY  
Phone: (859) 797-2231  
www.jhawleyconsulting.com

### Lexington Salt Cave & Wellness

*Health & Wellness*  
Contact: Lara Levine  
309 N. Ashland Ave., Suite 180  
Lexington, KY 40502  
Phone: (859) 396-2349  
www.lexsaltcave.com

### M & M Gutter Services

*Home Improvement Services*  
Contact: John Mullett  
132 Ballard Ln., Sadieville, KY 40370  
Phone: (859) 207-7442  
www.mmgutterservices.com

### Metro Plus Credit Union

*Credit Unions*  
Contact: Taylor Settles  
1565 McGrathiana Parkway  
Lexington, KY 40511  
Phone: (859) 258-3990  
www.metropluscu.org

# PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Corporate Moves, Company Awards and Notable Milestones



## Old Gate, LLC

*Horse Farms*  
Contact: Michele Holbrook  
4696 Payson Stud Lane  
Lexington, KY 40516  
Phone: (859) 987-6312

## Pamela Snyder, Realtor

*Real Estate*  
Contact: Pamela Snyder  
401 W. Main St., Suite 204  
Lexington, KY 40507  
Phone: (502) 682-5137  
www.agentpamky.com

## Pirtek Lexington

*Hydraulic Distributors*  
Contact: Jason Smith  
133 Trade St. #5  
Lexington, KY 40511  
Phone: (859) 810-0176  
www.pirteklexingtonnorth.com

## Qvell LLC

*Employment Services*  
Contact: Mohit Arora  
6001 Tain Drive, Suite 203  
Dublin, OH 43017  
Phone: (614) 787-2280  
www.qvell.com

## Second Chance Fashion Design

*Retailers*  
Contact: Jacqueline Williams  
820 Lane Allen Rd., Suite 125  
Lexington, Ky 40504  
Phone: (859) 369-6439  
www.secondchancefashionanddes  
ign.com

## Sutton Contracting

*Signs*  
Contact: Chris Sutton  
Nicholasville, KY  
Phone: (859) 576-1489  
www.suttoncontractor.com

## TerraLink, LLC

*Environment & Ecological Services*  
Contact: Grant Talbert  
Lexington, KY  
Phone: (304) 785-6023

## THE MANE ON MAIN

*Event Production*  
Contact: Tom Evans  
201 E. Main Street, Suite 1500  
Lexington, KY 40507  
Phone: (859) 231-0464  
https://themanonmain.com

## Warner Builders

*Building Contractors*  
Contact: Mike Warner  
1060 Chinoe Dr., Suite 124  
Lexington, KY 40502  
Phone: (859) 421-0800  
www.warnerbuiltky.com

**Advanced Business Solutions: Cy Dixon** has been named Central Kentucky Business Development Manager.

**The Agency** welcomed **Tonja McCloud, Sydney Powers** and **Teresa Powers** as new agents.

**Mike Inman** was recently installed as the 2026 president of **Bluegrass Realtors**. He is a top producing realtor with Coldwell Banker McMahan.

**Central Bank & Trust Co.** announced the following promotions: **Danny Purvis** to financial reporting analyst, officer; **Jess Rayyan** to commercial real estate specialist, officer; **Rob Wessel** to senior vice president, commercial insurance officer-manager; and **Don Yaden** to senior vice president, personal insurance officer-manager. Additionally, **Danny Murphy** joined Central Bank as vice president, personal trust officer.

## Christie's International Real Estate Bluegrass

announced that **Paula Elder**, a prominent figure in the local real estate industry and current Bluegrass Realtors' president-elect, has joined the firm.

**Karen Harbin**, President/CEO of **Commonwealth Credit Union**, was announced as the new chair of the America's Credit Unions Board of Directors.

The design-build company **Denham-Blythe** marks 50 years in business this year. With offices in Lexington, Louisville, Nashville, and Greenville, the firm has completed over 20,000 projects across 34 states and Mexico. Founded in 1976, the company aimed to create a construction experience centered around customer advocacy.

**Dickinson Wright** received a score of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's (HRCF) 2026 Corporate Equality Index, the nation's foremost benchmarking survey and report measuring corporate policies and practices related to LGBTQ+ workplace equality. Dickinson Wright joins the 534 U.S. businesses that will be honored with HRCF's Equality 100 Award as Leaders in LGBTQ+ Workplace Inclusion.

**Lexington Christian Academy** announced the promotion of **Morgan Wilson** to chief financial officer.

The **Lexington-Fayette Urban County Airport Board** welcomed **Tony Bonner** (Dinsmore & Shohl LLP) as a new board member.

**The Lexington Forum** announced that **Erin Goins** (Bites of the Bluegrass) has been awarded the 2026 One to Watch Award, which recognizes an individual who is already making an impact in our community and shows exceptional promise for the future. Additionally, **Laura Farnsworth** (Downtown

Lexington Partnership) received the 2026 Spirit Award, which recognizes someone whose selfless service and leadership have made a meaningful impact on our community.

**Republic Bank & Trust Company** announced the promotion of **Brad Comer** to chief investment officer.

For the third year in a row, **Republic Bank & Trust Co.** was named to *Forbes'* 2026 America's Best Banks list. *Forbes* evaluates the 200 largest publicly traded banks using 11 metrics, and Republic Bank is one of only three Kentucky-based banks to earn a place on this list.

The **Rotary Club of Lexington** recognized **Darlene Thomas**, Executive Director of Greenhouse 17, with its 2026 Humanitarian Award, which honors individuals who demonstrate a generosity of spirit and selflessly dedicate their time to serving those less fortunate, while making significant contributions that benefit the welfare of humanity. As part of the recognition, the Rotary Club of Lexington presented a \$1,000 donation to Greenhouse 17 in support of its mission.

**Saint Joseph Health** welcomed the following to its team at Saint Joseph Medical Group in Lexington: **Kacie Heichelbech**, PA, in primary care; **Cameron Scheitzach**, PA-C, in maternal-fetal medicine; **Melissa Stipp**, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, FNP-BC, in gastroenterology; and **Deana Underwood**, APRN, in neurology.

**Saint Joseph Hospital** has been once again named one of America's 100 Best Hospitals by *Healthgrades*, the number one site Americans use when searching for a doctor or hospital. This achievement reflects Saint Joseph Hospital's commitment to clinical excellence and top-tier patient care, placing the organization in the top 2% of U.S. hospitals for overall clinical performance for the fourth year in a row. In addition, Saint Joseph Hospital has been recognized for its exceptional patient outcomes in key service areas, including critical care.

**Stites & Harbison, PLLC** welcomed attorney **David L. Kinsella** to its Lexington office as Counsel in the Construction Service Group.

**United Way of the Bluegrass** has named **Caleb Robinson** as interim president and chief executive officer following the recent unexpected passing of **Tom Shelton**.

## SUBMIT PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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



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## COMMERCE LEXINGTON CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

### APRIL 2026:

- 16** Leadership Lexington presented by Community Trust  
Bank: People, Culture & Community Day Session.
- 16** Business Link sponsored & hosted by Lexington Legends  
(207 Legends Lane), 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. - **SEE PAGE 6**
- 22** Leadership Central Kentucky presented by LG&E & KU  
at Clark County.
- 28** Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass presented by  
Keeneland: Emotional Intelligence with Stephanie Osborne  
Greene, 3:30 - 5 p.m. Join ELBG at [commercelexington.com/  
emerging-leaders-of-the-bluegrass.html](https://commercelexington.com/emerging-leaders-of-the-bluegrass.html).

### MAY 2026:

- 1** Deadline to submit applications for 2026-27 Leadership  
Lexington program. - **SEE PAGE 13**
- 1** 2026 Salute to Small Business Awards applications  
become available. - **SEE PAGE 12**
- 14** Leadership Lexington presented by Community Trust  
Bank: Equine Day Session.
- 20** Leadership Central Kentucky presented by LG&E & KU,  
Reflection & Graduation.
- 28** Member 201: Marketing through Commerce Lexington,  
8:30 - 10 a.m., at Commerce Lex. 1st floor conference room.

### JUNE 2026:

- 4** Leadership Lexington presented by Community Trust  
Bank: Reflection & Graduation.
- 10-12** Leadership Visit to Des Moines, Iowa, presented by  
Central Bank & Trust Co. - **SEE PAGE 6**