

Business Focus

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF COMMERCE LEXINGTON INC. | JANUARY 2026 | VOLUME XXXIV, ISSUE I



An Evening With Commerce Lexington is January 29

DETAILS INSIDE

Photo by Mahan Multimedia



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Legislative Session Preview

2026 Ambassador Committee
Announced

Register Now for 2026 Leadership
Visit to Des Moines, Iowa

Message from Incoming Board
Chair Nick Nicholson



commerce
lexington®

commercelexington.com



Message from the Incoming Board Chair

Like you, I am very passionate about Lexington and our region. I want to see our people provided with every opportunity to have a job, a nice place to live, and raise a family right here in the Bluegrass. Although we've made great progress in a number of areas related to quality of place, we mustn't rest on our past successes and declare victory. We should always be asking, 'How can we do better and what's next?' We can be proud of our past, but we should never be content with our present.

A crowning achievement for economic development in Lexington came in mid-2025 with the groundbreaking of the **Legacy Business Park**. Located near the University of Kentucky's Coldstream Research Park, the 200-acre park is expected to bring almost 1,700 jobs to the community. It is not only a testament to the power of partnerships between public and private sector leaders, but also great determination by those leaders. It took eight years from the time of the initial discussions about the need for more shovel-ready land to when ground was broken, and it will be even longer until the first employees are on site. Now is the time to identify the next business park location.

As we try to make **progress on our housing crisis** here in Lexington and regionally, a recent collaboration between Transylvania University, local banks and developers, and several community organizations – including Commerce Lexington – led to the creation of what will be a 12.5-acre affordable housing development on the former Transy baseball field. Again, this project will add much needed housing to our community, and it has been recognized as a successful model that can be replicated across our state. We must look for the next opportunity where this collaboration can help our residents find quality housing options. We have the model, and we have the partners. We just need to find the next location.

Increasing jobs and talent is the bread and butter of what a Chamber should be doing for its city and region, and that's what Commerce Lexington has done for more than 140 years. We will continue to support and advance the **Regional Competitiveness Plan**, a collaborative effort that includes public and private sector leaders across nine counties working to increase jobs and talent in the Greater Lexington region. Regionalism is a cornerstone of this organization and is absolutely necessary when it comes to competing with our benchmark metros. The collective attributes of our nine counties make us more attractive to businesses looking to relocate here.

I'm really looking forward to leading our **2026 Leadership Visit** to Des Moines, Iowa, from **June 10-12**. This important community-building trip has helped expose Central Kentucky leaders to the best ideas of model communities throughout the country. Des Moines is vibrant, growing, and experiencing tremendous momentum. I recently spent time there and met with many of their leaders. The city's priorities mirror those of Lexington: talent development, affordable housing, a strong downtown identity, while focusing on regional collaboration. A key industry sector for Des Moines is Ag-Tech, which will provide rich content ideas for the trip and enable us to explore more in this important area related to our own region. I encourage you to consider joining our delegation in 2026.

To have continued success in the future, we must have a business community that is engaged and involved in our city's most pressing issues. Too often, we get distracted by the next problem before we put maximum effort into solving the last one. There are 70 boards and commissions available through local government, and I encourage you to consider applying for one that you're interested in. There are hundreds of examples of what happens when we get involved to help solve issues, and we need your expertise working alongside our public officials to find solutions to our community's toughest challenges.

I am excited to serve as your Board Chair this year and look forward to working with you to strengthen our community and region for the next generation.



**NICK
NICHOLSON**
STOLL KEENON
OGDEN PLLC



Business Focus will be published 7 times in 2026, including January, February, April, June, August, October, and December by Commerce Lexington, 330 East Main Street, Suite 100, Lexington, KY 40507. Phone: 859-254-4447.

2026 Chair of the Board:

Nick Nicholson
Member
Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC

Publisher:

Robert L. Quick, IOM, CCE
President & CEO
Commerce Lexington

Editor: Mark E. Turner
Communications Specialist: Liz Bennett
Printing: Post Printing
Mail Service: SouthEast Printing & Mailing Service, LLC (2610 Palumbo Drive)

Subscriptions are available for \$12 and are included as a direct benefit of Commerce Lexington membership. Business Focus (USPS 012-337) periodical postage paid at Lexington, Kentucky.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to Business Focus, Commerce Lexington, P.O. Box 1968, Lexington, KY 40588-1968.

Advertising:

For advertising opportunities in Business Focus, contact Mark Turner at mturner@commercelexington.com. Only Commerce Lexington members can advertise in this publication. By promoting your business here, you'll be able to reach the movers and shakers in and around the Greater Lexington region.

Personnel Updates:

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.

TRAVELHOST

IS NOW THE ALL NEW

Explore

The Visitors Guide to the Bluegrass

FEATURING THE BEST IN

- EVENTS
- ATTRACTIONS
- SHOPPING
- DINING
- RELOCATION SERVICES

Reach

1,000's
of Visitors Daily!

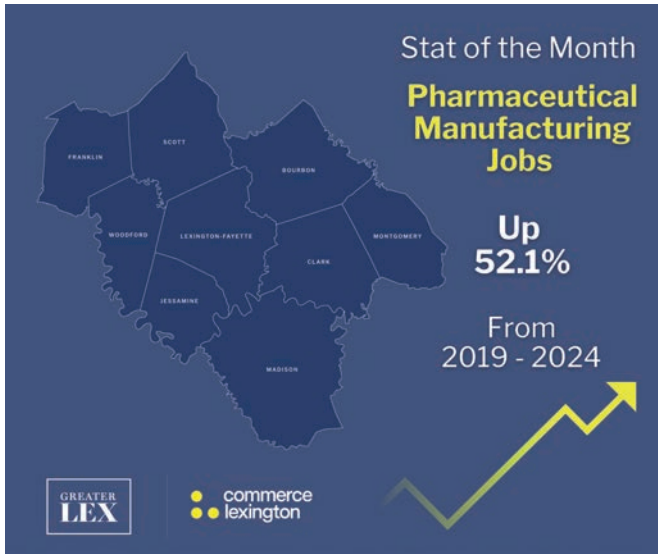
859-351-6728





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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



Biopharma Sector: Driving Growth in Greater Lexington

Biopharma was identified as a key sector for growth in Lexington during the Economic Leadership study led by Ted Abernathy, released in spring 2023. Since then, Commerce Lexington's Economic Development team has been actively implementing strategies to strengthen this industry and attract new opportunities to the region. For existing businesses, the Lexington Economic Partnership launched a Biotech Consortium to foster collaboration and enhance communication among local companies. On the recruitment front, a targeted digital advertising campaign is underway, designed to capture the attention of C-suite executives in the biopharma sector and showcase the advantages of locating in Greater Lexington. From 2019 to 2024, pharmaceutical manufacturing jobs in Greater Lexington grew 52.1%

Commerce Lexington Showcases the Bluegrass in New York City

In mid-November, Commerce Lexington, in partnership with VisitLEX and FilmLEX, proudly highlighted Kentucky's unique assets during two premier events in New York City. On Tuesday, the group welcomed site selectors at the 15th Annual State Farm Champions Classic at Madison Square Garden, spotlighting Lexington's vibrant business climate alongside world-class basketball. On Wednesday evening, a James Beard Foundation dinner featured Lexington's own Chef Ouita Michel, celebrating Kentucky's rich culinary traditions and flavors. Attendees were also treated to tastings of Bespoken Spirits and heard from CEO Scott Savage on why they chose to relocate their spirits company to Lexington from Southern California. From championship sports to exceptional cuisine and scenic landscapes to an exceptional workforce, we were honored to share what makes our community truly special.



Money Smart for Small Business

The Money Smart for Small Business Classes provide an introduction to topics related to starting and managing a business.

Save the Date & Register Today!!

Winter Session
February 2 - March 9, 2026
5:30pm -7:00pm
(Monday Nights Only)

330 East Main Street
Lexington, KY 40507

859-226-1621
www.commercelexington.com/events

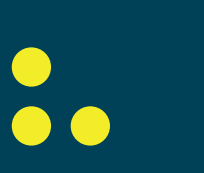
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY THE NUMBERS:

As of mid-December, Commerce Lexington's Economic Development team has responded to calls from:

- New Business:** 54 prospects interested in finding a new location or expanding in the Lexington area.
- Client Visits to the Lexington Area:** 12
- Existing Business Visits:** 108
- Existing Business Attempts:** 160
- Total Active Projects:** 42

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL:





Fifth Third Bank Presents An Evening With Commerce Lexington

An Evening With Commerce Lexington presented by Fifth Third Bank will take place on Thursday, January 29, 2026, from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Central Bank Center. Join us for a spectacular night of connection, celebration, and inspiration. This premier networking and community recognition gathering is your chance to celebrate a year of collaborative growth and business success, while igniting the path forward.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- **Regional Celebration:** Unite with fellow members to celebrate the strength and resilience of our regional business community.
- **Leadership Recognition:** Be part of the excitement as we honor outstanding leaders

who have played pivotal roles in our success.

- **Futuristic Prelude:** Let's collectively set the stage for the future, showcasing the innovative spirit that defines our business community.
- **Networking:** Expect a lot of networking! This event has been called the Super Bowl of Networking!

TO REGISTER:

The cost to attend this Commerce Lexington members' only event is \$225 per person with tables of ten also available. Table sponsorships are available for \$2,500. Benefits include 10 seats, sponsor recognition before, during and after the event, and wine service during dinner Register online at commercelexington.com.

PRESENTED BY



FIFTH THIRD

PLATINUM SPONSORS



RECEPTION SPONSOR

DENTONS

ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR



VIDEO SPONSOR



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD SPONSOR



COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD SPONSOR



DENTONS

Trust the lawyers at Dentons to help navigate the complexities of employment law.

With offices in more than 170 locations, including Kentucky, Dentons is the world's largest global law firm.



Kimberly O'Donnell
Office Managing Partner



Sarah Laren
Partner

dentons.com

© 2025 Dentons. Dentons is a global legal practice providing client services worldwide through its member firms and affiliates. Please see dentons.com for Legal Notices.



60-Day Session of Kentucky General Assembly Kicks Off January 6

On Tuesday, January 6, state legislators will convene in Frankfort for the 60-day Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly, with the primary task of enacting the Commonwealth's biennial budget for fiscal years 2026-2028. Beyond the budget, Republican supermajorities are expected to advance several key priorities, including measures to address Kentucky's housing shortage, ongoing efforts to further reduce the state individual income tax rate, enhanced Medicaid oversight amid potential federal funding changes, and targeted one-time investments in communities statewide. In addition to allocating funds for various state cabinets and services, education funding - which historically accounts for more than half of the biennial budget - will remain a central focus, ensuring thorough legislative review during the Session.

During the long Budget Session, some of the issues Commerce Lexington and regional leaders will be advocating for a variety of policy items to support the Regional Competitiveness Strategy, including:

- **Pro-Growth Tax Reform:** Supports continued phased reductions to Kentucky's individual income tax, which was lowered to 3.5% in 2025, and simplification of the tax code to enhance competitiveness.
- **Housing Accessibility and Affordability:** Lexington needs more than 20,000 units to meet current housing needs and to support the region's workforce. Commerce Lexington will be advocating for a \$20 million statewide bank capital fund and tax credits to address Lexington's housing shortfall and support workforce housing through streamlined regulations and local infrastructure financing options for developers.
- **Talent Attraction and Retention:** Backs a proposed three-year, \$5 million statewide marketing campaign to position Kentucky as a premier place to live and work, targeting both in-state retention and out-of-state talent.
- **Economic Development:** Strongly supports sustained investment in the Kentucky Product Development Initiative (KPD), which has already resulted in 16+ grants, 764 jobs, and \$154 million in capital investment across the Greater LEX region.
- **Critical Infrastructure:** Supports sustained state investment in essential transportation (roads, bridges, airports, railroads) and

2026 POLICY STATEMENTS:

Commerce Lexington has finalized its 2026 Public Policy Statements, which will guide the organization throughout the year in policy matters at the local, state and federal levels of government. **Scan the QR code to review the 2026 statements.**



utilities (water, sewer, energy, broadband) to improve economic connectivity, reliability, and affordability.

- **Investment in Transformational Projects:** Advocates for public-private investment in high-impact regional projects for the upcoming 2026 biennial budget, including the Bluegrass Airport Terminal Expansion, a new Lexington Children's Museum, a new performing arts center, and investments in regional business parks to increase shovel ready land for jobs and infrastructure to expediate housing construction in Lexington's Expansion Area 3 (Athens Boonesboro Road corridor).
- **Childcare Accessibility:** Supports prioritized investments in affordable, high-quality childcare to boost parental workforce participation (potential gain of 16,000-28,000 working parents) and generate significant economic impact, advocating for efforts to streamline regulations and sustain programs like the Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership.

The 2026 Session is scheduled to conclude by April 15. Commerce Lexington urges members to stay connected on state, local and federal policy issues during the year. Regular email updates will be provided to members throughout the year to keep business updated on what's happening in City Hall, Frankfort, and Washington, D.C. and the impact on the Greater LEX region.

Legislators, Business Leaders Connect During Legislative Breakfast

PRESENTED BY



PLATINUM SPONSOR



The 2025 Legislative Appreciation Breakfast was held on December 18 at Kentucky Eagle. The event included opportunities to network with state legislators and learn about priority state issues. Several legislators with the Central Kentucky Caucus attended the event with an emphasis on members that represent Fayette County. **Kentucky Senate President Robert Stivers** and **House Speaker David Osborne** provided insight on the upcoming 2026 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly.



Photo by Mahan Multimedia

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST CHAMPIONS: Babbage CoFounder | Building Industry Association of Central Kentucky | Central Bank & Trust Co. Columbia Gas of Kentucky | Commonwealth Alliances | Cornerstone Government Affairs | Goodwill Kentucky | Independence Bank | Kentucky American Water | Kinetic | Kentucky Utilities Co. | Midway University | ORI | PNC Bank | Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC | Toyota Kentucky | University of Kentucky | VisitLEX | WealthSouth | Wyatt Tarrant & Combs, LLP



Des Moines, Iowa

EVENTS



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

PRESENTED BY



us to **Des Moines, Iowa**, from **June 10-12, 2026**. 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** for the 2026 Leadership Visit to Des Moines, Iowa. 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).

JANUARY @330 SERIES

Emotional Intelligence: Not Therapy, Not HR — Just Better Leadership

During the next Commerce Lexington **@330 Series** presented and hosted by **46Solutions** on **Wednesday, January 21**, from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. at the 46Solutions' showroom (161 Lexington Green Circle, Suite 140), **Stephanie Greene**, founder of Health Bridge Consulting and an ICF credentialed executive coach, leadership consultant, and former healthcare executive, will present on Emotional Intelligence in the Workplace.



STEPHANIE GREENE

PRESENTED BY



Emotional Intelligence is often talked about but rarely defined — or operationalized. In this interactive session, leaders will gain clarity on what emotional intelligence truly is (and what it is not), explore the

core traits that distinguish emotionally intelligent leaders, and examine how EQ shows up in real workplace behaviors that impact trust, performance, and culture. Participants will also learn practical ways organizations can embed emotional intelligence into hiring decisions, leadership expectations, and everyday culture.

TO REGISTER:

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

TOPS

Reach **69,000+** Monthly Readers with **TOPS Magazine!**

GET IN TOUCH TODAY: ADVERTISING@TOPSMARKETING.COM • 859-543-8677 • TOPSINLEX.COM



FEB

MAR

APR

BE FEATURED IN...

**Wedding Marketplace
Event & Entertainment Venues**

BE FEATURED IN...

Leaders of Lexington
Reserve your exclusive category today!

BE FEATURED IN...

**Home & Garden Pros
Real Estate Marketplace**



Commerce Lexington Announces 2026 Ambassador Committee

Commerce Lexington is proud to announce the members of its 2026 Ambassador Committee, a selected group of volunteers who serve as official representatives and advocates of the Chamber. They are an extension of the Commerce Lexington staff, ensuring that member businesses get the most out of their membership. Ambassadors help educate members on benefits, programs, and events, as well as represent Commerce Lexington at ribbon cuttings, grand openings, networking functions, and open houses.

Bob Quick, president and CEO of Commerce Lexington, said, "Our Ambassador Committee is vital to our organization and the community. These volunteers are our eyes and ears, relaying important information and concerns about their business and the economy. With the support of Independence Bank, the presenting partner of the 2026 Ambassador Program, this initiative will continue to cultivate engaged

PRESENTING PARTNER



leaders who strengthen relationships, enhance member experience, and promote the mission of Commerce Lexington."

"Independence Bank is proud to support a program that connects people, builds leadership, and helps move our business community forward," said Stacy Berge, Lexington Market President of Independence Bank. "Serving as the presenting partner of the 2026 Ambassador Program reflects our ongoing commitment to investing in the communities we serve."

Commerce Lexington is also pleased to recognize Dan Noel, who will serve as Chair of the 2026 Ambassador Committee. Dan is the owner and operator of Men In Kilts Lexington, an exterior cleaning franchise that does window and gutter cleaning, as well as house and pressure washing. This will be his second year serving as Chair of the committee.

2026 AMBASSADOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS



David Baumgartner
Tresane, LLC.



Debbie Cain
Bluegrass Builders and Remodel



Alicia Cox
Stock Yards Bank



Brandy Drakeford
BACK Construction



Vicki Evans
TOPS Marketing



Justin Ferrarella
Lexington Legends



Braeden Finch
Field & Main Bank



Caroline Francis
University of Kentucky Alumni Career Services



Charity Gilbert
Christian Appalachian Project



Art Hubbard
Hubbard Mechanical



Kristie Jones
Commonwealth Credit Union



Paige Mazzoni
Servpro



Trey McCallie
Realty One Group Bluegrass



Josh McCurn
Haymaker Company



Laura Mobley-Corn
Expres Employment Professionals



Jeff Morrett
Parsons & Howard Insurance Group



Jennifer Neal
Lamar Advertising



Crystal Newton
46Solutions



Dan Noel
Men In Kilts Lexington
2026 CHAIR



Sam Overbee
Old National Bank



Jessica Pfister
Human Interest



Alisha Rose
Nimlok Kentucky



Rob Ruddick
Independence Bank
CHAIR-ELECT



Trey Schadt
Anderson & Rodgers Construction



Regina Schmutte
RSR Benefits



Bob Stamper
ISAFE Complete



Ginger Stein
Churchill McGee LLP



Hunter Stewart
South Central Bank



Mike Sypolt
LW Office Furniture Warehouse



Kelly Webb
Colonial Life



Leadership Lexington Explores Dynamics of Economic Development

Recap by Jay L. Phillips, Embry Merritt
Womack Nance, PLLC

Leadership Lexington participants spent a full and dynamic day immersed in the people, institutions, and policy decisions that shape economic growth across the Bluegrass region during this year's Economic Development Day. The program offered a comprehensive look at how agriculture, innovation, workforce development, infrastructure, and land use policy intersect to define Central Kentucky's economic future.

The day began at Bluegrass Stockyards, a cornerstone of the region's agricultural economy. Jim Akers shared valuable insights into agriculture's continuing role as a major economic driver. From there, the class traveled to Lexmark, where Sheri Evans Depp discussed the company's longstanding presence in Lexington and its impact on the local economy.

Participants then heard from regional leaders addressing innovation, construction, infrastructure, and workforce development - including Kevin Mansur (Awesome, Inc.), Todd Johnson (Building Industry Association of Central Kentucky), Gene Barber (R.J. Corman), Erin Tipton (Bluegrass Community and Technical College), and Brett Bibb (Commerce Lexington).

Later, a panel moderated by Phil Jun featured Leslie Miller (VisitLEX) and Lisa Brin (FilmLEX), who spoke about Lexington's uniqueness and efforts to attract film and entertainment projects to the region. Then, Tari Young of Xerox and Lexmark provided a perspective on the Xerox-Lexmark merger. Following an interactive economic development simulation, the day concluded with a **discussion on the urban service boundary (pictured above)** from Samantha Castro, Price Bell, Nick Nicholson, Councilmember Liz Sheehan, and Chris Woodall.



(Photo by Mahan Multimedia)

PRESENTED BY
 Community Trust Bank
Member FDIC

Read Full Recap at
commercelexington.com/news

37TH

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 3, 2026

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Central Bank Center

REGISTER NOW



SCAN HERE

PLATINUM SPONSORS



ORIENTATION SPONSOR



MEDIA SPONSOR



NAME BADGE SPONSOR



GOLD SPONSOR:
From Here to There





WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New Commerce Lexington Members & Top Investors From November 14 to December 15, 2025

NEW BRONZE LEVEL PREMIER PARTNERS

Carto Commercial

Real Estate

Main Contact: Ross Boggess
838 East High St., Suite 101
Lexington, KY 40502
Phone: (859) 880-7677
www.cartocre.com

Davis and Plomin Mechanical, Inc.

Contractors

Main Contact: Sam Plomin
949 Contract Street
Lexington, KY 40505
Phone: (859) 253-3792
www.davisandplomin.com

The Allen Company, Inc.

Construction

Main Contact: Jason Gabbard
3009 Atkinson Ave., Ste. 300
Lexington, KY 40509
Phone: (859) 543-3361
www.theallen.com

1858 Sterling Spirits, LLC

Distillery

Main Contact: Carrie Trapp
Phone: (859) 983-2700

A Cup of Common Wealth

Coffee Shop/Restaurant

Main Contact: Salvador Sanchez
105 Eastern Ave., Lexington, 40508
Phone: (859) 255-0270
www.acupofcommonwealth.com

Alpha Concrete Services

Concrete Construction

Main Contact: Ernesto Ramirez
Phone: (859) 475-2533
www.alphaconcreteservicesllc.com

Bear & the Butcher / 3 Behr's Inc. / Behr Enterprises Inc

Restaurants

Main Contact: Brian Behr
815 Euclid Ave., Lexington, 40502
Phone: (859) 469-9188
www.bearandthebutcher.com

Bluegrass Home Care Services

Personal Care Services

Main Contact: Tammy Scott
2039 Regency Rd., Unit 1
Lexington, KY 40503
Phone: (859) 334-0744
[vices.com](http://www.bluegrasshomecareser-
vices.com)

Bluegrass Lions Diabetes Project

Non-Profit Organizations

Main Contact: Pat Ryan
Lexington, KY
Phone: (859) 221-1041
[ject.com](http://www.bluegrasslionsdiabetespro-
ject.com)

Burns Piping Mechanical Contractors, Inc.

Mechanical Contractors

Main Contact: Stacy Burns
Phone: (606) 726-0242
www.burnspiping.com

Caring Excellence

House Sitting Services

Main Contact: Aaron Cook
8247 Bull Lea Run, Suite 104
Lexington, KY 40511
Phone: (859) 233-8490
www.caringexcellenceathome.com

Dreamhousing Solutions

Real Estate Rental Services

Main Contact: Amy Thompson
Phone: (859) 320-7715
www.dreamhousingsolutions.net

Fisher Phillips

Legal Services

Main Contact: Stephani Harper
220 W. Main St., Suite 1700
Louisville, KY 40202
Phone: (470) 866-4821
www.fisherphillips.com

Hill Strategic Advisors

Government Relations/Lobbying

Main Contact: David Hill
271 W. Short St., Suite 400
Lexington, KY 40507
Phone: (859) 399-8041
<https://hillstrategicadvisors.com>

Honor Home Loans (Powered by New American Funding)

Mortgages

Main Contact: Renee Peden
505 Wellington Way, Suite 110
Lexington, KY 40503
Phone: (800) 450-2010
[www.newamericanfunding.com/
mortgage-loans/ReneePeden](http://www.newamericanfunding.com/
mortgage-loans/ReneePeden)

Hotel Thoroughbred

Hotels/Motels

Main Contact: Chris Poynter
530 Main St., Paris, KY 40361
Phone: (502) 396-2015
www.hotelthoroughbred.com

Joel Katte

Educational Consultants

Main Contact: Joel Katte
169 West Main Street, Suite 4
Lexington, KY 40507
Phone: (859) 967-8510
www.joelkatte.com/testimonials

Lifeline Homecare, LLC

Home Health Service

Main Contact: Debbie Cooper
Wilson
2358 Nicholasville Rd., Suite 170
Lexington, KY 40503
Phone: (859) 324-2001
www.lifelinehomecareky.com

Monarch Ventures LLC

Construction Management

Main Contact: Margra Ferrier
Phone: (859) 880-1939
www.monarch-venturesllc.com

Morning Pointe of Lexington

Retirement Communities /

Independent Living

Main Contact: Chantel Bingham
233 Ruccio Way
Lexington, KY 40503
Phone: (859) 554-0060
www.morningpointe.com

NR Inc.

Health & Wellness

Main Contact: Pauline Hertzog
101 Venture Court, Suite 2B
Lexington, KY 40511
Phone: (859) 259-9687
www.nrincny.com

Panda Express

Restaurants

Main Contact: Amy Tran
2331 Remington Dr.
Lexington, KY 40511
Phone: (859) 721-8081
www.pandaexpress.com

Real Property Management Bluegrass

Real Estate Management

Main Contact: Daniel Ritchie
1908 Bryant Rd., Suite 250
Lexington, KY 40509
Phone: (859) 684-2054
www.rpmbbluegrass.com

SLT CPAs & Advisors

Accountants

Main Contact: Aimee Settles
2365 Harrodsburg Road, A200
Lexington, KY 40504
Phone: (859) 514-3300
www.sltcpas.com

Southern Comfort Heating & Cooling LLC

*Air Conditioning & Heating
Systems HVAC*

Main Contact: Kevin Davis
1067 Whipple Ct.
Lexington, KY 40511
Phone: (859) 255-2500
<https://southerncomfortky.com>

Sparklight LLC

Lighting Designers

Main Contact: Matt Cooper
380 E. Second St.
Lexington, KY 40508
Phone: (859) 554-0739
www.sprklighting.com

Swish365 Lexington

Sports & Recreation Management

Main Contact: Kimberly Mattingly
195 S. Forbes Rd.
Lexington, KY 40511
Phone: (502) 591-0830
www.swish365.com

The Studio Pilates Barre Yoga

Fitness Centers

Main Contact: Jennifer Childers
1980 Bryant Road, Suite 150
Lexington, KY 40509
Phone: (859) 230-0125
<https://thestudio-lex.com>

ThermoSpray of Lexington Inc.

Insulation Contractors

Main Contact: Barry Corse
5751 Briar Hill Rd., Bldg. 117
Lexington, KY 40516
Phone: (859) 293-4606
www.thermospraylex.com

Women Connect

Women-Owned Business

Main Contact: Lucy Miller
138 Coreopsis Ct.
Franklin, TN 37067
Phone: (629) 235-3344
www.wewomenconnect.com

PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Corporate Moves, Company Awards and Notable Milestones



Asbury University named **Colton Back** as its new director of strategic communications. Back brings a strong background in athletics communications, athletics recruiting and marketing, along with a personal connection to Asbury as both an undergraduate and graduate alumnus.

Christian Appalachian Project named **Jennifer Stolo** its next president & CEO effective January 19, 2026. Stolo will replace **Guy Adams**, who announced his retirement after leading the organization since 2010.

Community Trust Bank announced that **Nicole Newsome** has been promoted to the position of Winchester Market President

Crank and Boom Craft Ice Cream won a Blue Ribbon for its Dark Chocolate Truffle flavor at the recent "ConeCon" North American Ice Cream Association convention in Florida.

Kentucky American Water: Susan Lancho, senior manager of government and external affairs, has been awarded the prestigious Public Relations Society of America's Career Achievement Award for the Thoroughbred Chapter. The honor recognizes outstanding contributions to the field of public relations and a lifetime of leadership, innovation and mentorship. In addition, **Mel Kimmel** has been named director of business development for the company.

McBrayer PLLC recently announced the firm's planned leadership transition. Starting in 2026, **James H. Frazier, III** will transition from his long-standing role as managing member to become chief executive officer, while **Jaron Blandford** will assume the role of managing member, leading day-to-day firm operations and attorney development.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) recently reaffirmed the accreditation of **Midway University** without requiring additional action. Midway has been continuously accredited by SACSCOC, the regional accrediting body for higher education institutions in the southern states, since 1949.

Saint Joseph Health announced the hiring of **Wayne Lipson**, M.D., MBA, as the new chief medical officer for the ministry.

Saint Joseph Hospital and **Saint Joseph East** have again been recognized for clinical excellence for service lines, according to new research released by *Healthgrades*, a leading resource consumers use when searching for a doctor or hospital. Saint Joseph Hospital received Five-Star recognition for cardiac, pulmonary and critical care services. In addition, the hospital landed in the top five percent in the nation for both pulmonary and critical care services, and is among the Top 100 Best Hospitals for Critical Care Services for seven straight years. Saint Joseph East was named a Five-Star Recipient for treatment of sepsis for the eleventh year in a row.

Sayre Christian Village announced additions to its leadership team, including **Jamie Slone** as vice president of healthcare services and **Shane Smith** as chief financial officer.

Stites & Harbison, PLLC announced the addition of **Jacob Baird** to its Lexington office in the Torts & Insurance Practice Service Group.

The Kentucky Travel Industry Association recently recognized **VisitLEX** with 17 Traverse Awards for its innovative marketing and public relations campaigns, including Gold Awards for the organization's "C'mon" 250LEX Campaign, which encouraged residents to invite friends and family home for the "Come Home Month" celebrations when events and activities were in full swing, and the "Bittersweet Views" campaign for its effective strategy to extend visitors length of stay. The awards honor the talent, creativity and effectiveness of its members' marketing and public relations efforts.

SUBMIT PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

Kristie Woodrum Promoted, Marks 10 Years With Commerce Lex.

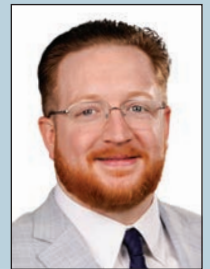
Commerce Lexington is pleased to announce that Kristie Woodrum has been promoted to Senior Manager of Investor Development. In her new role, she will continue to focus on investor and member engagement, new membership acquisition, renewals, advertising, and sponsorship sales. She will also expand her leadership in managing key initiatives, including the Ambassador program and additional non-dues revenue opportunities that enhance member involvement and return-on-investment (ROI). In December, Woodrum marked ten years of service with Commerce Lexington. A native of Maysville and graduate of Morehead State University, Kristie is an active member of Rotary Club of Lexington and is committed to supporting initiatives that make Central Kentucky a thriving place to live and do business.



KRISTIE WOODRUM

Commerce Lexington's Brett Bibb Named to ACCE's 40 Under 40 List

Commerce Lexington is proud to announce that Brett Bibb, director of marketing, was named to the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives' 40 Under 40 list, which showcases 40 of the chamber industry's top emerging leaders who have demonstrated success in their careers and made significant contributions to the communities they serve. Their creativity, dedication and commitment to identifying innovative solutions will help shape the future of the chamber profession. Brett continues to give back to his community. He is co-founder and vice president of the DiverCity Festival, which has been instrumental in celebrating the cultural diversity of Lexington. He served as a two-time chair of the EMERGE Conference for emerging leaders and is a board member of CHOICE, Inc. in Louisville, which provides educational, youth-specific experiences in a safe environment.



BRETT BIBB



Commerce Lexington Inc.
330 East Main Street, Suite 100
P.O. Box 1968
Lexington, KY 40588-1968

Periodical
Postage PAID
at Lexington,
Kentucky

COMMERCE LEXINGTON CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

JANUARY 2026:

- 1-2** Commerce Lexington offices closed and will re-open on January 5, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.
- 8** **Leadership Lexington presented by Community Trust Bank:** Health & Human Services Day Session.
- 14** **Leadership Central Kentucky presented by LG&E & KU** at Fayette County.
- 19** Commerce Lexington offices closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- 21** **@330 Series presented & hosted by 46 Solutions** (161 Lexington Green Cir., Suite 140), 3:30 - 5 p.m. - **SEE PAGE 7**
- 29** **An Evening With Commerce Lexington presented by Fifth Third Bank** at Central Bank Center. - **SEE PAGE 5**

FEBRUARY 2026:

- 2** **Money Smart for Small Business** classes held each Monday through March 9, at Commerce Lex., 5:30 - 7 p.m.
- 3** **UK's Economic Outlook Conference**, 8:30 a.m. - Noon, at Central Bank Center.
- 12** **Leadership Lexington presented by Community Trust Bank:** Education Day Session.
- 18** **Leadership Central Kentucky presented by LG&E & KU** at Scott County.

MARCH 2026:

- 5** **Business Link hosted by God's Pantry Food Bank** (2201 Innovation Drive), 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.