



## Events, Programs, & Services

**@330:** A Commerce Lexington member's only event, these informal gatherings include an interactive presentation on various professional development topics. Relevant to both large and small businesses, attendees hear from a speaker or panel for a little over an hour and then may stay for a brief networking period thereafter.

**Access Loan Program:** Commerce Lexington and the area's leading banks and financial institutions have teamed up in the Access Loan Program to improve your odds of getting approval for a loan that matches your business needs. There are no guarantees, but you will know what your chances are of securing the credit you desire.

**Annual Dinner:** Enjoy this annual winter event when over 1000 members gather to recognize outstanding volunteers, meet Commerce Lexington leadership, and start a brand-new year.

**Business Owners Advisory Board:** Commerce Lexington is pleased to provide this no-cost program to its members. "BOAB" is made up of 8-10 Commerce Lexington members who meet monthly to share business concerns and challenges in a confidential and non-competitive environment.

**Business Link:** At this popular "after hours" event members enjoy food, fun, and networking in an informal setting. Business Links are held six or seven times per year and are hosted and sponsored by Commerce Lexington member businesses.

**Central Kentucky Day at the Capitol:** A day-long event, business and community leaders from Central Kentucky, local and state elected officials, local chambers and economic development groups will come together in Frankfort to discuss state policy issues of importance to the region. During the visit, meetings will be held where attendees will interact with state legislators and top-level Executive branch officials and other issue experts

**EMERGE:** This conference engages the next generation leaders of Central Kentucky – our young professionals – to leverage their thoughts, ideas, and strategies for the betterment of our community and region. This full-day event brings together young professionals and entrepreneurs with emerging leaders, business professionals, and community leaders.

**Leadership Central Kentucky:** A program designed to: educate and inform individuals on issues and opportunities for all our region's communities; create awareness and understanding of how each county's actions affect the others; and to help foster a regional vision for the Bluegrass.

**Leadership Lexington:** You can become one of 45-50 leaders selected each year to participate in an intensive 10-month program, in which you will learn more about the key issues in the community.

**Leadership Visit:** For over 70 years, Commerce Lexington's Leadership Visit has helped expose Central Kentucky's leaders to the best ideas of similarly sized communities throughout the United States, yielding valuable lessons that have been applied to the improvement of the Bluegrass Region. This three-day trip has become the most valuable opportunity to bring community leaders, decision makers and ideas together to ake positive changes in our community.

**Minority Business Opportunity Exchange:** An event designed to connect majority companies, Commerce Lexington members, and the community at-large with minority business vendors.

**Net90:** If you don't schmooze, you lose! This premier networking event for business professionals will give members an opportunity to meet prime business contacts in a unique format. This fast paced, intensive event uses a rotation schedule allowing participants to rotate around tables and give a 90 second pitch about their company to others. Participants will make valuable business contacts in a very brief period.

**New Member Luncheon:** This program offers new members an opportunity to learn more about Commerce Lexington, to meet and network with other Commerce Lexington members, and a chance to introduce their business in an informal atmosphere. This event is held on a bi-monthly basis.

**Public Policy Luncheons:** A unique opportunity for Commerce Lexington members and guests to network over lunch and hear from leading state and national officials about current events and critical issues confronting our region, state, and country. Held four times yearly, featured speakers have ranged from U.S. Senate and House delegations, the Governor, and key members of the Kentucky General Assembly.

**Regional Policy Summit:** Commerce Lexington Inc. has a long history of promoting regionalism through leadership programs (Leadership Central KY), economic development efforts (Bluegrass Alliance) and public policy (Central KY Policy Group). The Leadership Summit serves as a convening point to further leverage these resources. It also provides the opportunity for public and private sector leaders to build relationships and improve regional collaboration that advances the regional economy. Many issues such as the drug epidemic, infrastructure, workforce development, and energy costs, impact Central Kentucky's competitiveness for jobs without regard to county lines. Through this event, businesses and community leaders can come together to work toward positive change for the region.

**Salute to Small Business Awards Luncheon:** Commerce Lexington Inc. 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 on the global economy has become greater than ever before. This event features annual award categories including green initiatives, innovation, legacy, minority business, non-profit, young entrepreneur, and more.

**SPARK:** SPARK's mission is to provide a forum which fosters sharing between entrepreneurs, businesses, investors and professional services providers. Your involvement in SPARK helps to forge a bright future for this community, with the understanding that our success depends on our ability to connect great ideas with interested investors.

**Spotlight:** This bi-annual event is designed as an interactive forum on a "hot button" issue of the day. It allows the audience to ask questions of some of the community's top leaders in an informal setting.

**Washington Fly-In:** Invitation-only event - Central Kentucky business, government and community leaders travel to Washington D.C. to meet with key congressional leaders to advocate for our unified, regional federal legislative agenda. The "Fly-In" takes place over two days and includes issue updates from representatives in D.C.; meetings with our Kentucky Congressmen and Senators; and a highly anticipated "Kentuckians in Washington Annual Summer Reception".