

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

On behalf of Commerce Lexington Inc. and its Board of Directors, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for participating in the 2018 Leadership Visit to Boise presented by Central Bank & Trust Co. This annual benchmarking visit is thought to be the largest and longest-running intercity trips in the country among chambers of commerce, and over the years, they have helped expose Central Kentucky leaders to the best ideas of model communities throughout the United States.

You may recognize several things in Lexington that were a direct result of our Leadership Visits. Things like the wildly popular Thursday Night Live downtown, Coldstream Research Park, Commerce Lexington's Minority Business Development and Access Loan programs, the EMERGE Conference, the completion of the Legacy Trail and much more. All came from ideas, meetings and discussions that took place during a past Leadership Visit.

So, you might be asking why Boise was selected for this year's trip. Boise and Lexington share several similarities, including population size, a low cost of living and doing business, an educated workforce, low unemployment rates, and a high quality of life. During this trip, we'll look at what Boise does well in the areas of talent recruitment, entrepreneurial support, placemaking, and more, including why they are consistently ranked among the top cities to visit, to live, and to work.

This year, the planning committee has worked hard developing an agenda that maximizes our time in Boise by incorporating more doing and a little less sitting in sessions. We want you to be engaged as you explore this top-ranked city, imagine the possibilities that exist back home, and be inspired to raise the bar in our own communities.

The effectiveness of these community-building trips is due in large part to the participation of people like you, who are contributing to Lexington's success through your company or business. Thank you again for taking time away from your busy schedule to join us on this trip. I am excited to see what Boise has to offer.

Sincerely,

Karen S. Hill



KAREN HILL
2018 BOARD CHAIR
COMMERCE LEXINGTON INC.
CHIEF NURSING OFFICER/
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
BAPTIST HEALTH LEXINGTON

