

Business Focus

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF COMMERCE LEXINGTON INC. | JULY 2023 | VOLUME XXXI, ISSUE VII

SPOTLIGHT Series Shines Light on New Counter Clocks Baseball Team on July 25th

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Presented By

WEALTHSOUTH

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NOTE: Members of the Executive Board also serve on the Full Board of Directors.

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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.



Nominations for 2024 Commerce Lexington Board Due By Sept. 5th

Do you want to have some input on the key issues that affect local business, our community, and our future? Have you thought about becoming a board member for one of the most effective business organizations in Kentucky?

Commerce Lexington, with over 5,000 business professionals representing 1,900-plus member businesses, will be accepting nominations from the membership for its 2024 Board of Directors until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5, 2023. By becoming a board member, you'll be able to

weigh in on the issues that affect the Bluegrass Region. An on-line nomination form is available at www.commercelexington.com/board.html.

A nominating committee will review the names submitted. Once the board slate is approved by the Commerce Lexington Executive Board, the names will be distributed to the membership. For questions about the nomination process or the nomination form, contact Emily Powers at epowers@commercelexington.com.

Scan QR Code to
Access Board
Nomination Form



Build Your Connections Using Commerce Lexington's Social Media

Commerce Lexington Inc. recognizes that business owners and business professionals live busy lives. That's why we have so many different ways to keep connected to the events, programs, and services that help you succeed. Social media is an effective way to promote your company or organization and engage your customers. Here are some of the places you can keep up with Commerce Lexington Inc. on social media. Commerce Lexington Inc. members are permitted to post items about their business to our social media channels.



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Commerce Lexington has over 5,100 members on its Facebook group. Follow facebook.com/LocateInLex for news on expansions & relocations, as well as our Minority Business Development division.



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<https://locateinlexington.com/about-us/media-center/>

Commerce Lexington Welcomes Brett Bibb as Director of Marketing

Commerce Lexington Inc. is pleased to welcome **Brett Bibb** as its new director of marketing, responsible for enhancing the image and visibility of the organization by leading brand strategy, creating marketing assets, and developing and coordinating the overall marketing plan to support all internal departments and programs.



BRETT BIBB

"We're excited to welcome Brett to the Commerce Lexington family. His experience building marketing strategies for nonprofits and organizations in our market, as well as his extensive involvement with our team and leadership programs, will help us further elevate our brand throughout the region," said Bob Quick, President and CEO of Commerce Lexington.

Brett served as chair of Commerce Lexington's EMERGE Steering Committee in 2021 and 2022 and is a 2019 graduate of Leadership Lexington, during which his class project team launched the annual DiverCity Festival that showcases over 40 cultures through live performances, art, food, and educational booths.

He previously worked in marketing roles for Dean Dorton (2019-2023) and Downtown Lexington Partnership (2016-2019). Contact Brett Bibb at (859) 226-1607 or bbibb@commercelexington.com.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Submitted by Gina Greathouse, Niki Goldey, Cheryl Klever, Falon McFarland & Katie Vandegriff

Economic Development Attends BIO International as Part of Kentucky Trifecta Group

The Greater Lexington Region is committed to fueling the growth of the biotechnology industry in the Bluegrass. Niki Goldey represented the Economic Development team at the International BIO show in Boston, June 5-8. Kentucky Trifecta, the Kentucky delegation, included members from University of Kentucky Innovate, KY Science & Technology Corporation, University of Louisville, Louisville Forward, UPS, and several Kentucky based biotech companies. More than 14,000+ international and domestic biotechnology and pharma leaders from across the country and around the world attended the event to network, learn about innovative technologies, discuss research prospects, and discover new opportunities.



Left to right: Joe Frazier, Falon McFarland, and Sherelle Roberts.



Left to right: Vincent Terry, Ed Holmes, and Tyrone Tyra.

FCPS - “A Seat at the Table” Event

Community and Minority Business Development partnered with Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS) for “A Seat at the Table” on June 8, featuring guest speaker Rita McNeil Danish, CEO of Signal Ohio and Founder, CEO and Principal of JD2 Strategists, LLC. The event provided business owners an opportunity to hear about the positive changes FCPS has made and participate in a discussion about greater inclusion.

To increase the inclusion of Minority Business Enterprises (MBE’s), Women Business Enterprises (WBE’s), and Veteran Business Enterprises (VBE’s), FCPS has updated the Board of Education’s Purchasing Policy to include more language to support the inclusion of MBE’s, WBE’s, and VBE’s. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Leads in schools will now also function as supplier diversity advocates. In the fall, FCPS will present awards to Supplier Diversity Champions, recognizing those schools and departments with the greatest percentage increase in spending with MBE’s, WBE’s, and VBE’s. In addition, FCPS will conduct mandatory Safe School Training modules on purchasing and supplier diversity, implement the three envelope system for construction bids, and foster the newly formed partnerships with 7PM Group and KY Apex Accelerator.

The event concluded with a guest panel of industry experts, state legislators and others who are committed to supplier diversity. The panel host was Emmy-winning journalist and television host, Sherelle Roberts.

Legacy Business Park Receives KPDI Funding

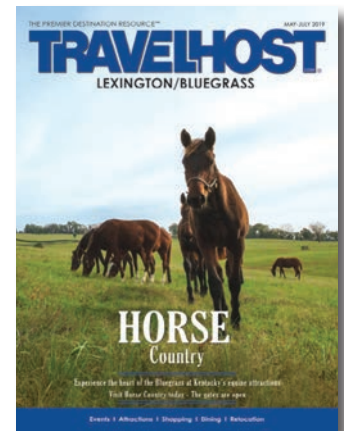
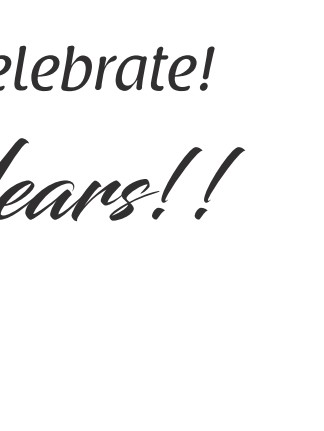
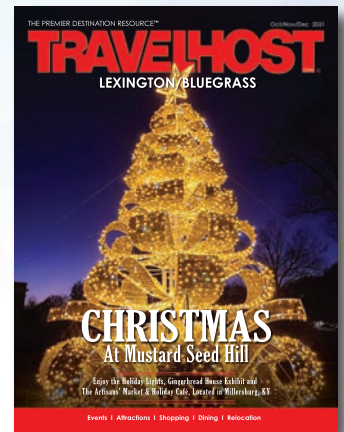
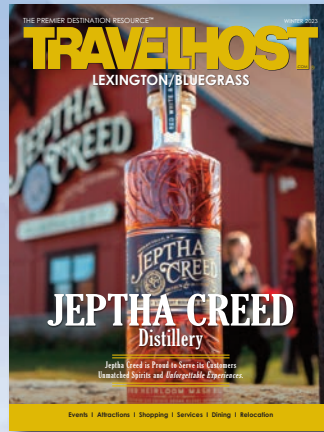
To enhance continued economic development growth, the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development and the Kentucky Association for Economic Development are working together to implement the Kentucky Product Development Initiative (KPDI). Designed to support upgrades to industrial sites around the state, the KPDI program includes \$100 million in state funding which can be accessed by communities to make existing sites more attractive for potential projects.

Lexington applied for and secured \$2 Million in funding from the KPDI program for the 200-acre Legacy Business Park located along I-64/I-75 near the Coldstream Research Campus. Work will begin later this year to extend and improve infrastructure to the site. In total, more than \$6 million in improvements will be made to the site.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY THE NUMBERS:

For 2023 year-to-date, Commerce Lexington’s Economic Development Division has responded to calls from:

- New Business: 31** prospects interested in finding a new location or expanding in the Lexington area.
- Client Visits to the Lexington Area: 12**
- Existing Business Visits: 36**
- Existing Business Attempts: 64**
- Total Active Projects: 35**

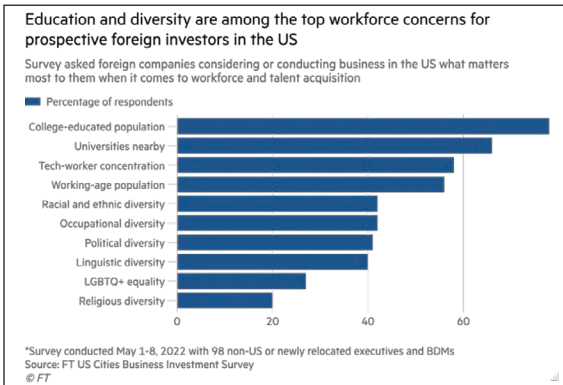


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STAT: Survey Asks Foreign Investors to Rank Workforce, Talent Concerns

The Financial Times-Nikkei US City FDI Rankings is an annual report that ranks cities in the United States by their success in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). The report evaluates cities based on several factors including FDI strategy, economic potential, business friendliness, human capital and lifestyle, and connectivity. Out of a 100 score, Lexington scored a perfect 100 on aftercare, which is based on a survey of the city's long-term support of existing companies. Another top concern for foreign investors was workforce and talent and the chart below shows the importance of a college educated population for companies considering locations. Commerce Lexington's Economic Development team contacts over 150 businesses within the community each year to provide support for the various challenges and opportunities companies face in their efforts to grow and prosper in Central Kentucky.



Bluegrass Tech Task Force

Commerce Lexington is working alongside community partners and tech employers to address this important sector and find ways to enhance the industry in the Greater Lexington Region. In September, the group analyzed various factors that affect the tech industry and decided to focus on the following initial topics.

- > **Employ** – Grow existing and attract new employers of tech professionals by having the right tech skills available in the Bluegrass;
- > **Engage** – Build a vibrant, engaged local tech community through dynamic meetups, events, and conferences;
- > **Educate** – Develop an effective technical education pipeline integrated with employer and employee needs from primary and postsecondary schools in the region; and
- > **Enable** – Build an ecosystem of internships and apprenticeships that provide growth opportunities for all levels of tech students.

Each member joined a committee and worked to research strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to develop a plan of action and ways to influence success. The team regrouped last month to collaborate and build upon each topic to achieve the goal of growing jobs and employers in the region. The group is growing successfully by engaging multiple sectors to create awareness. If you are interested in joining the Tech Task Force initiative, e-mail to cklever@commercelexington.com.



They lecture. We talk.

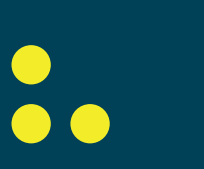
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Delegation Heads to Capitol Hill to Advocate for Central Kentucky

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On July 26-27, more than 40 regional business and community leaders travel to the nation's Capital for the annual **Washington, D.C. Fly-In presented by Columbia Gas of Kentucky**. During the two-day visit, leaders will meet with members of Kentucky's Congressional Delegation and staff about priority issues to enhance regional competitiveness. In addition, participants the opportunity to hear from various leaders and policy experts about key issues such as tax and regulatory reform, immigration and other workforce issues.

Attendees on the trip are diverse and represent various sectors of the regional economy such as government, banking, health care, non-profit, education, manufacturing, energy, and professional services. Members of the delegation act as "policy ambassadors" for Central Kentucky. They share the issue concerns of the business community with members of Congress, and advocate for policies or projects aimed at making the region a better place to live and work.

The Bluegrass Region's D.C. Fly-In is organized by Commerce Lexington and the Central Kentucky Public Policy Group. Members of the Central Kentucky Policy Group are responsible for crafting the federal policy agenda each year. The group includes business, community and government leaders within the nine-county region of Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Jessamine, Madison, Montgomery, Scott, and Woodford counties.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For more information about the Bluegrass Region's D.C. Fly-In, contact Andi Johnson at ajohnson@commercelexington.com. Follow the delegation's visit in real-time on Commerce Lexington's social media accounts on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.



Council Approves Updated Comprehensive Plan Goals & Objectives Planning Commission to Identify Between 2,700-5,000 Acres for Expansion Area

On June 15th, the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council approved the updated 2045 Comprehensive Plan Goals & Objectives by a vote of 13-2. During three months of discussion and debate, Councilmembers thoughtfully approached this process to ensure the plan reflects the needs of our diverse community. The Comprehensive Plan prioritizes addressing housing affordability and job creation needs, while balancing the need to preserve and protect our unique agriculture land.

It also emphasizes housing affordability solutions such as exploring opportunities for unused and underused city-owned land to be developed for affordable housing developments and adopts a reasonable and responsible "two-step approach" to addressing short-term and long-term needs to our city's growth and development and expansion of the Urban Service Area.



Urban County Councilmember Preston Worley talked about the purpose of the Urban Services Boundary during a Committee of the Whole meeting.

Other key points of the updated to the Goals & Objectives:

- By December 1, 2024, the Planning Commission is to identify between 2,700-5,000 acres for expansion near major transportation corridors and develop an Expansion Area Master Plan for the identified areas with an emphasis on creating opportunities for affordable housing and jobs.
- By August 1, 2026, a long-term growth management process is to be completed to guide future expansion decisions.

Our community cannot afford to wait another 5-10 years for more study and a growth process to be implemented. Development takes time, and our community is already behind.

- Less than 4% of land within the current boundary is vacant and available land for housing and jobs needs.
- Home prices have skyrocketed more than 80 percent over the last ten years.
- The city is losing population.
- Land for job creation is limited to a handful of sites.

If you'd like to learn more about the impact of land use policies on our local economy or get engaged in the issue, contact Andi Johnson at ajohnson@commercelexington.com.

Leadership Visit Participants Learn From Grand Rapids, Michigan

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Stock Yards Bank & Trust
Traditional Bank
WealthSouth
WesBanco Bank

A delegation of about 170 Central Kentucky business, education, government, and nonprofit leaders recently took part in Commerce Lexington's Leadership Visit to Grand Rapids, Michigan. One of the longest-running and largest intercity trips of its kind among chambers of commerce nationally, these annual community-building visits provide great opportunities to examine what other cities and regions are doing well and look inward at how we can improve Lexington and Central Kentucky.

During the trip, participants visited the global headquarters of Steelcase, the leading manufacturer of furniture for offices, hospitals and classrooms. The group also heard how Grand Rapids has expanded its health care industry through the growth of the Medical Mile and plans to become a major tech hub in the Midwest by growing 20,000 new tech jobs over the next ten years. In addition, representatives from Grand

Action 2.0 discussed how they have fostered public-private collaborations to create transformational projects in Grand Rapids. In addition to the sessions, participants experienced Grand Rapids on their own or through a variety of elective tours and lunches covering topics like downtown development, diversity and inclusion, housing affordability, the area's well-known beer culture, and more.

Throughout the trip, attendees were asked to pay special attention to the stories that made Grand Rapids what it is today in preparation for an interactive discussion about Lexington on the final day of the trip. As participants considered a variety of introspective questions both individually and in groups, Commerce Lexington partnered with local artist and illustrator, Bryce Oquaye, to create a graphic illustration in real-time that represented the group's comments about Lexington's future story.

Check out more photos on-line at commercelextington.com/grandrapids.html



1. Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss. **2.** Randy Thelen (*The Right Place*) & Rick Baker (*Grand Rapids Chamber*). **3.** Candice Smith led participants on a tour around Grand Rapids. (Photos by Bill Straus Photography)



1. Central Bank President Luther Deaton made presenting sponsor remarks at Steelcase. **2.** Lexington Police Chief Lawrence Weathers & WesBanco Market President Abdul Muhammad at the Opening Night Reception. **3.** Lexington Vice Mayor Dan Wu. **4.** Jordoun Eatman (*Experience Grand Rapids*). (Photos by Bill Straus Photography)



1. A panel on the Medical Mile included Jerry Kooiman (*MSU College of Human Medicine*), Jerry Callahan (*Van Andel Institute*), Darryl Elmouchi (*Corewell Health*) & Anthony Chang, Ph.D. (*BAMF Health*) **2.** Doug DeVos, Co-Chairman of Amway Board of Directors. **3.** Attendees participated in a group activity entitled *Writing Our Story* on the final day of the Leadership Visit. (Photos 1-2 by Bill Straus Photography; Photo 3 by Commerce Lex. Staff)



@330: Importance of Personal PR to Individual & Professional Success

Public relations skills are essential for working in a variety of jobs that require regular communication with others. They typically include skills such as communication, research, and the ability to identify trends in public opinion. Knowing how to leverage these skills could make you a valuable contributor to a company's communications or marketing department.

During the next Commerce Lexington **@330 Series presented and hosted by 46Solutions on Tuesday, July 11**, from 3:30

- 5:00 p.m. at the 46Solutions' showroom (161 Lexington Green Circle, Suite 140), media and public relations veteran Abby Laub will discuss the importance of personal PR and how critical it is to your individual and professional success. Whether it's ensuring that you are seen in the right places through securing appropriate interviews in the media and through speaking opportunities or ensuring that your digital profile is up to date, representative, and accurate, personal PR will be essential to advancing your personal and commercial interests.



ABBY LAUB

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

This one-hour comprehensive and interactive course serves as an entrée into a broader conversation and will be facilitated by **Abby Laub**, a communications expert with nearly 20 years of MarCom experience who currently serves as the Director of Strategic Communications at Asbury University and helped guide the school through a global spotlight with hundreds of millions of viewers on both social media and traditional media outlets. She has experience as a journalist, photography and marketing business owner, communications consultant, and freelance writer for nearly 20 years.

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. Register on-line at commercelexington.com.

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@330 SERIES:

IN-PERSON EVENT

WHEN: Tuesday, July 11

TIME: Program 3:30-4:30 p.m.;
Networking 4:30-5 p.m.

TOPIC: Personal public relations

WHERE: 46Solutions' showroom (161 Lexington Green Circle, Ste. 140)

REGISTER: Register on-line at commercelexington.com

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SALUTE TO SMALL BUSINESS



Photo from 2022 Salute to Small Business Awards Luncheon by Mahan Multimedia.

2023 Salute to Small Business Awards Luncheon is August 18th

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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. The annual **Salute to Small Business Awards presented by Forcht Bank** recognizes the area's best small businesses and one exceptional nonprofit organization.

The week-long celebration (August 14-18) will include plenty of opportunities to get to know this year's Category Award winners, culminating with

the **Salute to Small Business Awards Luncheon** on **Friday, August 18**, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Central Bank Center in downtown Lexington, during which we'll announce a new Small Business of the Year.

REGISTER ON-LINE:

The cost to attend the awards luncheon on Friday, August 18th is \$59 for Commerce Lexington members, \$69 for potential members. Register on-line at commercelexington.com.

Past Salute to Small Business Award Winners

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD:

2022 - Highbridge Springs Water
2021 - Crank & Boom Craft Ice Cream
2020 - Churchill McGee
2019 - Hallway Feeds
2018 - BACK Construction
2017 - Omni Architects
2016 - A Cup of Common Wealth
2015 - Integrated Engineering, PLLC
2014 - LM Communications
2013 - Bates Security, LLC
2012 - Lynn Imaging
2011 - Creative Lodging Solutions
2010 - DMD Data Systems

MINORITY BUSINESS:

2022 - VOLO Careers International
2021 - Guide Realty
2020 - Elaine Allen, LLC
2019 - Synergy Coach
2018 - Posh Salon & Spa
2017 - Synergy Coach
2016 - A Cup of Common Wealth
2015 - Integrated Engineering, PLLC
2014 - TravelHost of the Bluegrass
2013 - Comfort Keepers
2012 - Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, N.E.
2011 - Bluegrass Veterinary Specialists
2010 - TKT & Associates, Inc.

BUSINESS SUCCESS AWARD:

2022 - Highbridge Springs Water
2021 - Crank & Boom Craft Ice Cream
2020 - Churchill McGee
2019 - Hallway Feeds
2018 - BACK Construction
2017 - GreenBox
2016 - MCF Advisors, LLC
2015 - Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites
2014 - LM Communications
2013 - Bates Security, LLC
2012 - Holifield Photography
2011 - Creative Lodging Solutions
2010 - DMD Data Systems

ENTREPRENEUR AWARD:

2022 - Astral
2021 - Peer House, LLC
2020 - AU Associates, Inc.
2017 - Impressions Marketing & Events
2016 - LexEffect Events + Management
2015 - Crank & Boom Ice Cream
2012 - J&H Lanmark
2011 - Benezet and Associates
2010 - APAX Software

NONPROFIT AWARD:

2022 - GreenHouse17
2021 - Lexington Rescue Mission
2020 - CASA of Lexington
2019 - Chrysalis House, Inc.
2018 - Kentucky Refugee Ministries
2017 - Children's Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass
2016 - Living Arts & Science Center
2015 - Downtown Lexington Corporation
2014 - Radio Eye, Inc.
2013 - Central Kentucky Riding for Hope
2012 - OWL, Inc.
2011 - Blue Grass Community Foundation
2010 - Lexington-Fayette Urban County Housing Authority

NOTE: For small business award winners dating back to 1986, visit commercelexington.com/past-award-winners.html.



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Make New Connections at Opportunity Exchange on September 14 Join Us to Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Minority Business Accelerator

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Commerce Lexington's next **Opportunity Exchange event presented by Equity Solutions Group** on **Thursday, September 14**, from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. at the Lyric Theatre & Cultural Arts Center (300 E. Third Street) will feature great networking, exchange of ideas, and interaction for minority-owned and small businesses in the Lexington region. The event connects minority business owners with procurement representatives from some of the largest companies in the region. This year, we will also celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Minority Business Accelerator.

The Minority Business Development program works to promote and sustain the economic growth, development and self-sufficiency of ethnic minority business owners and entrepreneurs; recruits minority-owned businesses into the Lexington MSA and

Commerce Lexington; and provides business referral services to the appropriate minority business assistance agencies.

The Community and Minority Business Development Program began in 1995, and over the years has expanded to include a financing program for small and minority-owned businesses, procurement initiatives and events, a Minority Business Resource Guide, and a Minority Business Accelerator.

TO REGISTER:

The cost to attend is \$5 for Commerce Lexington Inc. members, and \$10 for potential members. Please RSVP to Falon McFarland at fmcfarland@commercelexington.com.

OPP. EXCHANGE:

WHEN: Thursday, Sept. 14th

TIME: 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Lyric Theatre
(300 E. Third St.)

RSVP: To register, e-mail to fmcfarland@commercelexington.com

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM SPONSORS:

GOLD SPONSORS: Blue Grass Airport | Community Trust Bank | Forcht Bank | Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government | PNC Bank | Toyota Kentucky | University of Kentucky

SILVER SPONSORS: Central Bank & Trust Co. | Fifth Third Bank | WesBanco Bank

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CONTRIBUTOR: Transylvania University



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SPOTLIGHT Series Shines Light on Counter Clocks Baseball Team

The new Lexington Counter Clocks baseball team burst onto the scene earlier this year, and now that the season is well underway, we thought this would be a great time to get an update on professional baseball in Lexington. The next Commerce Lexington **SPOTLIGHT Series event presented by WealthSouth** on **Tuesday, July 25**, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Counter Clocks Field will be a departure from our typical morning event and instead will take place late in the day, so that those who would like to stay for the game that evening can do so.

The Counter Clocks compete in the Atlantic League, a Partner League of Major League Baseball. The franchise has won four championships since 2001. SPOTLIGHT participants will hear from team officials about changes they've made to the team and future plans, updates that fans will experience around the ballpark, and opportunities for businesses and groups to host their events or meetings on-site or entertain their clients and staff members during baseball games.



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SMALL BUSINESS SPONSOR:

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SPOTLIGHT:

WHEN: Tuesday, July 25

TIME: 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Note different timeframe.

WHERE: Counter Clocks Field (207 Legends Lane)

REGISTER: To register, visit commercelexington.com.

TO REGISTER:

The cost to attend this SPOTLIGHT Series event on July 25th is \$39 per person for Commerce Lexington members or \$49 per person for potential members. Register on-line at commercelexington.com. Watch for more details about this event delivered to your Inbox soon.

Member Mixer: Learn How You Can Leverage Your Membership

The vast majority of Commerce Lexington's membership is made up of small businesses and small business owners who are often so busy operating and/or managing their business that they have little time to attend networking events in person. Building relationships means everything in business, and Commerce Lexington's Member Mixer events provide an opportunity for members 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 **Tuesday, August 15**, 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 commercelexington.com. After registering, attendees will receive log-in information in the event registration confirmation. Space is limited.

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Member Discount on Workers' Compensation Insurance Introduced

Commerce Lexington is pleased to offer another member savings opportunity. Through a partnership with ClearPath Mutual and the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Commerce Lexington member businesses of all sizes can receive a 10-percent discount on their workers' compensation insurance cov-



erage. This discount offer is available to both new and existing ClearPath customers, provided they are members in good standing

with Commerce Lexington within 30 days of the policy effective date. ClearPath Mutual has approximately 7,100 policyholders and nearly \$50 million in premiums, making it one of the largest and most financially stable providers of workers' compensation in Kentucky. The company has an AM Best Rating of "A-" (Excellent) with Stable Outlook.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be a member in good standing within 30 days of the policy effective date.
- Minimum of 3 years in business, or management experience.
- Experience modification factor of 1.30 or less.
- Cooperation with Loss Prevention services.
- All other existing Underwriting Guidelines prevail.

OTHER DETAILS:

- Existing ClearPath Mutual policyholders are eligible at their renewal.
- It is the responsibility of the agent to notify ClearPath if the policyholder is a member of any participating chamber.
- Once applied, you will see the discount listed in the premium calculation under "Association Discount."

CONTACT:

If it is time for your company to renew your workers' compensation insurance, make sure you're getting the most out of your membership! For more information, contact Dawn Flickinger at 859-226-1609 or dflickinger@commercelexington.com.

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Discount applies to new & existing business with ClearPath; simply request your insurance agent to add the discount.



Emerging Leaders Go Behind-The-Scenes at Blue Grass Airport



LEFT: In June, Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass participants got a behind-the-scenes look at Blue Grass Airport. RIGHT: Blue Grass Airport Executive Director, Eric Frank, addressed the group. (Commerce Lexington Photos)

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. Now is the time to get emerging leaders in your company or organization registered to participate in this year-round program focused on professional development, community education and networking.

In June, Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass passholders got a behind-the-scenes look at Blue Grass Airport to hear how airports are structured, the logistics of air service, the art of landing new flight routes, and airport business and finance. Airport Executive Director Eric Frank addressed the group, and then passholders got a tour of the baggage handling system, public safety facility, airport maintenance complex, and the airfield.

JOIN EMERGING LEADERS:

Purchase your annual pass today and begin expanding your capacity through professional development, networking and community education opportunities. The cost for a full year of professional development programming is \$100 for Commerce Lexington members, \$125 for non-members, and \$50 for students. The annual pass year runs April through March. To learn more about Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass, visit www.emergingleadersbg.com.

GIVE THE GIFT OF LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

Looking for the perfect gift for an intern, recent college grad or other young professional in your life? Consider a year long pass to Commerce Lexington's Emerging Leaders of the Bluegrass

Program. We will even send you a gift voucher to present as a gift! This voucher entitles you to attend all Emerging Leader events held monthly through March 2024. Programs are focused on professional development, community education and networking. Purchase a pass by e-mailing to dwilson@commercelexington.com.

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Leadership Central Kentucky Class Concludes 2022-23 Program

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Leadership Central Kentucky's final day session was held at Equus Run Vineyards. (Commerce Lexington Photo)

On May 17, the Leadership Central Kentucky program held Reflection & Graduation Day at Equus Run Vineyards. The day started with a review of the program where class members gave us feedback through the "Four Helpful Lists" exercise led by Dr. Virgil Grant. Feedback will be shared during the July 13th Board/StratOp meeting.

Next, Opa Johnson (Chair – Curriculum Sub-

Committee) and Lauren Biddle (Chair – Alumni Engagement Sub-Committee) facilitated the Walk-Through-the-Year activity. The graduation ceremony followed with remarks from class member, Veda Stewart, and a report out from class members about the class project. The Leadership Central Kentucky Alumni Reception sponsored by Toyota followed with a great turnout from alumni.

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Veda Stewart was nominated by class members to make remarks about the year.



The Leadership Lexington class began its final 2022-23 day session at the Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden. (Photo by Mahan Multimedia)

Leadership Lex. Celebrates Grads, Phil Jun as Distinguished Leader

Recap by Raine Engle-Minichan, Fayette County Public Schools

After ten months of learning and laughing together, the Leadership Lexington Class of 2022-23 had its Reflection and Graduation Day on June 8. We began our day with breakfast at the Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden, where we learned about the historical significance of the legendary horseman for which the garden is named. The life story of Isaac Murphy is one of greatness, cut all too short by a premature death at the age of 36. Murphy's life is a story that racism and time nearly erased, and our class loved learning that the Memorial Art Garden is a legacy project of an earlier Leadership Lexington Class. We can only hope that our class projects have the same positive impact and longevity.

Later, the class transitioned to Base249, where we spent time in personal reflection about our Leadership Lexington journey. Then, each project group had the opportunity to reflect on the process and identify areas of strength and growth before sharing a summary with our classmates. The time of reflection was followed by a delicious lunch with dessert provided by our favorite ice creamery, Crank and Boom. A familiar face from our orientation, Megan Lincavage joined the class to formally invite us to join the Lexington Forum. Eli Mertens with TravelHost provided us with encouragement and words of inspiration.

Following lunch, Jason Cummins from Horizon Performance led the class through an "After Action Review" and leader development session. Just as he did at our September learning day, Jason inspired each of us to continue to pursue opportunities to become better leaders. He provided participants with a Leader Development Model through which we were challenged to engage and equip others to realize their own potential through the provision of the time necessary to grow through experience and reflection. Jason encouraged each member of the class to create a Leadership Legacy by helping to develop the leaders of the future.

Next, the class took one last trip on the bus,



Phil Jun, center, of LexArts, was named Leadership Lexington's 2023 Distinguished Leader. Pictured with Jun are previous Distinguished Leader Award recipients Nathan Zamarron (2022), left, and Timothy Johnson (2021). (Photo by Mahan Multimedia)

ending our journey on the campus of Transylvania University. There, we were joined by friends, family, and Leadership Lexington Alumni in the historic Old Morrison Chapel. The graduation ceremony opened with a welcome from Brad Stevenson and remarks from Cassidy Rosenthal, Commerce Lexington's 2023 Board Chair, and Anne-Tyler Morgan with presenting sponsor McBrayner PLLC. We were challenged to continue to seek opportunities to positively impact our community by the keynote speaker, University President Brien Lewis. Then, each of us were called forward individually to receive our certificates of completion before the announcement of our class Distinguished Leader, the incomparable **Phil Jun** of LexArts.

While this day marked the end of our Leadership Lexington journey, it also served as a celebration of the friendships built through the program. We are looking forward to continuing to support one another both professionally and personally in the days and years to come. The bonds built among the members of the "class that just happens to be the best" are innumerable, and each of us are thankful for the experience.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New Commerce Lexington Inc. Members From May 16 to June 16, 2023

Allergy, Asthma & Sinus Center, PLLC

Health Provider

Main Contact: Stephanie Sciascia
1136 Monarch Street
Lexington, KY 40513
Phone: (859) 223-0000
www.aasclex.com

American Cancer Society

Non-Profit Organizations

Main Contact: Emily Bays
1504 College Way
Lexington, KY 40502
Phone: (859) 221-1872
www.cancer.org/about-us/local/kentucky.html

Athlete Advantage

Sports Agency

Main Contact: Ryan Miller
325 W. Main Street, Third Floor
Lexington, KY 40507
Phone: (859) 420-4191
www.athleteadvantage.com

Brewer Private Wealth of Atlanta Consulting Group

Financial Planning Consultants

Main Contact: Rob Brewer
340 S Broadway
Lexington, KY 40508
Phone: (859) 551-0171
www.acgconsulting.com

Burke Concrete Construction, Inc.

Concrete Contractors

Main Contact: Randy Burke
4860 Dresden Way
Lexington, KY 40514
Phone: (859) 509-3862

Bux Pain Management

Health Provider

Main Contact: Anjum Bux
4071 Bates Creek Rd., Bates Creek Office Centre, Suite 105
Lexington, KY 40517
Phone: (859) 209-2423
www.BuxPainManagement.com

Deloitte

Accountants

Main Contact: Jordan Harris
220 W. Main Street, Suite 2100
Louisville, KY 40202
Phone: (502) 381-6318
www.deloitte.com

Erica Sardar - Real Estate Advisor

Real Estate

Main Contact: Erica Sardar
505 Wellington Way, Suite 125
Lexington, KY 40503
Phone: (859) 552-7146
www.YourLexingtonRealtor.com

Ernie's Spirits Harrodsburg Road, LLC

Liquor Stores

Main Contact: Kevin Durham
1999 Harrodsburg Rd., Lexington, KY 40503
Phone: (286) 420-7277
www.erniesspirits.com

JLD Inc.

Construction

Main Contact: John Logan
210 West Third Street, Lexington, KY 40508
Phone: (859) 252-1490
www.jldincorporatedky.com

John G. King Insurance Agency

Insurance

Main Contact: John King
127 Cheapside
Lexington, KY 40507
Phone: (859) 252-6155
www.johngkinginsurance.com

Lexington's Premier Mathematics Tutoring

Tutoring

Main Contact: Tyler Waters
169 E. Reynolds Road, Suite 204A
Lexington, KY 40517
Phone: (859) 893-1157
www.lexmathtutor.com

The Manchester

Hotels/Motels

Main Contact: Nick Hope
941 Manchester St., Lexington, KY 40508
Phone: (859) 785-3900
www.themanchesterky.com

MGR Mercantile

Retailers

Main Contact: Billie Brennan
1406 W. Cumberland Gap Pkwy.
Corbin, KY 40701
Phone: (606) 627-9667
<https://corbincardsandgames.com>

Miller's Window Works

Window Treatments

Main Contact: Raymond Miller
201 Industry Parkway, Nicholasville, KY 40356
Phone: (859) 272-8199
www.millerblinds.com

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Neogen Corporation

Manufacturers

Main Contact: Brianna Harvey
944 Nandino Blvd.
Lexington, KY 40511
Phone: (859) 254-1221
www.neogen.com

Red Roof Inn Lexington North

Hotels/Motels

Main Contact: Joseph Kerns
1980 Haggard Ct.
Lexington, KY 40505
Phone: (859) 293-2626
www.redroof.com/property/ky/lexington/RR1044

The Joint Chiropractic Regency Centre

Chiropractors D.C.

Main Contact: Jonathan Stampfli
150 W. Lowry Lane, Suite 140
Lexington, KY 40503
Phone: (859) 695-3574
www.thejoint.com/15004

Thomas Pavlik CPA, PLLC

Accountants

Main Contact: Thomas Pavlik
261 Regency Circle, Suite 3
Lexington, KY 40503
Phone: (859) 327-8262
www.pavlikcpa.com

Titan Physical Therapy

Physical Therapists

Main Contact: Avery Schroyer
1096 Wellington Way, Suite 110
Lexington, KY 40503
Phone: (859) 303-6393
www.titanptky.com

Toshiba Business Solutions

Printers/Service & Supply

Main Contact: David Moon
523 Wellington Way, Suite 120
Lexington, KY 40503
Phone: (859) 629-3329
<https://business.toshiba.com>

Trifecta: Glass-Art-Lounge

Artists

Main Contact: Travis Adams
243 Walton Avenue
Lexington, KY 40502
Phone: (502) 220-6258
www.trifectadesignstudio.com

VitaOasis Infusion & Wellness LLC.

Health & Wellness

Main Contact: Krystle Maynard
712 Pinoak Drive
Nicholasville, KY 40356
Phone: (859) 287-4521
www.vitaoasisinfusionwellness.net

Waibel Transportation LLC

Transportation Services

Main Contact: Jennifer Waibel
1687 Donelwal Dr.
Lexington, KY 40511
Phone: (440) 666-3070

PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Corporate Moves, Company Awards and Notable Milestones



Ad-Venture Promotions recently promoted **Gracie Brown** to senior marketing specialist.

The Agency announced the hiring of **Tony Hammond**.

Big Ass Fans announced the appointment of **JJ Rodgers** as the company's new vice president of finance.

Big Ass Fans was recently honored with the Comparably Award for Best Career Growth. Comparably, a platform that provides comprehensive workplace culture and compensation data, conducted an extensive analysis of employee feedback and ratings across a wide range of companies. This distinguished honor recognizes the company's commitment to fostering a supportive and thriving work environment that enables its employees to grow both professionally and personally.

City of Lexington: Mayor Linda Gorton recently announced four new staff appointments, including **Liz Rodgers** as chief information officer, **Amy Glasscock** as director of business engagement, **Erica Rogers** as director of agriculture development, and **Tara Estes** as community re-entry advocate in the mayor's office.

CLARK Material Handling Company announced the appointment of **J. Michael Binnie** as COO/CAO for its North America operations.

Community Trust Bancorp, Inc., announced the promotion of **Tonya Maynard** to the position of Vice President, Internal Audit Supervisor of Community Trust Bank, Inc.

Community Ventures recently hired Lexington native **Krista Buckel** to fill the nonprofit's director of brand experience position.

The Council of State Governments welcomed **Tina Zeff** to its national headquarters staff as executive lead for strategic partnerships and impact investments.

Dickinson Wright announced that *Chambers & Partners*, publisher of the world's leading guides to the legal profession, has ranked the firm's litigation practice in Kentucky and two of the firm's Lexington attorneys in the 2023 *Chambers USA Guide*, including **Andrew D. Dorisio** and **Brian Johnson**.

Dickinson Wright received nine practice rankings and one attorney in Kentucky has been listed in this year's *The Legal 500 United States 2022*, which assesses the strengths of law firms in over 100 jurisdictions. The firm was also listed as a "Firm to Watch" for Intellectual Property – Trademarks: Litigation. Individually, Lexington attorney **Brian Johnson** received recognition in Dispute Resolution – General Commercial Disputes and Labor and Employment – Labor and Employment Disputes (including Collective Actions): Defense.

Dinsmore & Shohl LLP: **Cody King** joined the firm's Lexington office as an associate focusing on commercial litigation. Corporate partner **Laura Holoubek** will begin an exciting chapter on the Community Board for Independence Bank in Lexington. Litigation associate **Kyle Bunnell** from the Lexington office was recently elected vice chair of the Kentucky Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division.

Jason Taylor, vice president, asset management, brokerage, development and leasing at **Equity Management Group**, was named a 2022 Power Broker in the two sections of Top Retail Leasing Brokers and Top Sales Brokers. The CoStar PowerBroker Award recognizes professionals who closed the highest transaction volume in commercial real estate deals in their respective markets.

The ranked order of the 2023 Best Places to Work in Kentucky were recently announced by the **Kentucky Chamber of Commerce** and the Kentucky Society for Human Resource Management at an awards ceremony that recognized 100 companies for their commitment to focus, measure and move their workplace environments toward excellence. Commerce Lexington members ranked in the Large Category included: 4. **Central Bank & Trust Co.**; 5. **Farm Credit Mid-America**; 8. **Gray**; 9. **Steptoe & Johnson PLLC**; 11. **Republic Bank**; 14. **New Vista**; 19. **AssuredPartners**; and 25. **Columbia Gas of Kentucky**. Commerce Lexington members ranked in the Medium Category included: 2. **Independence Bank**; 4. **Dean Dorton**; 6. **Blue & Co., LLC**; 7. **Stites & Harbison, PLLC**; 9. **CLARK Material Handling Company**; 10. **Commonwealth Credit Union**; 11. **Louisville Tile**; 12. **Park Community Credit Union**; 14. **Associations International, LLC**; 17. **Dentons**; and 27. **University of Kentucky Federal Credit Union**. Member businesses recognized in the Small Category included: 7. **Ward, Hocker & Thornton, PLLC**; 8. **PriceWeber Marketing**; 10. **People Plus, Inc.**; 14. **CORNETT**; 16. **MCF Advisors**; 22. **Longship**;

25. **All Star Purchasing**; 26. **CHI Saint Joseph Health, Outpatient Surgery Center**; 28. **CHI Saint Joseph Health Partners**; 30. **V-Soft Consulting**; 33. **Thoroughbred Engineering**; 35. **Forcht Broadcasting Radio & Digital**; and 38. **United States Hunter Jumper Association**.

Lexmark International recently named **Tonya Jackson** as senior vice president and chief people officer. **Billy Spears** has succeeded Jackson as senior vice president and chief product delivery officer and joined the executive team.

Littler Mendelson welcomed associate **August Johannsen** to the firm's Lexington office.

Chambers USA selected 25 **Stites & Harbison, PLLC** attorneys in Kentucky and Tennessee for inclusion in its 2023 guide. The *Chambers USA* guide ranks the top law firms and leading attorneys in the United States. The firm was recognized in Kentucky in the following areas: Intellectual Property; Litigation: General Commercial, and Real Estate; Corporate/M&A; Environment, Natural Resources & Utilities; and Labor & Employment. Lexington attorneys recognized on the list included **William T. Gorton III**, **Mandy Wilson Decker**, and **Warren D. Schickli**.

Whitaker Bank announced the addition of **Leah Taylor** as AVP commercial and residential loan officer.

WLEX-TV (LEX 18) was recently honored with 11 Regional Emmy Nominations by the Ohio Valley Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences encompassing news coverage, videography, writing, promotion, and public service. LEX 18 received more Emmy nominations than the rest of Lexington's other TV stations combined. Winners will be announced at the 59th Annual Ohio Valley Emmy Awards Gala on July 29th in Lawrenceburg, Indiana.

Marley Bush has been named the new director of the **YMCA of Central Kentucky Black Achievers** program.

SUBMIT PERSONNEL NEWS:

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

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COMMERCE LEXINGTON CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 2023:

4 Commerce Lexington offices closed in observance of Fourth of July holiday.

11 **@330 Series presented by 46Solutions**, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m., at 46Solutions (161 Lexington Green Circle, Suite 140)
- SEE PAGE 9

25 **SPOTLIGHT Series presented by WealthSouth**, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., at Lexington Counter Clocks. - SEE PAGE 13

26-27 **Washington, D.C. Fly-In presented by Columbia Gas of Kentucky**. - SEE PAGE 6

AUGUST 2023:

15 **Member Mixer**, 10:00 - 11:15 a.m., via Zoom.

18 **Salute to Small Business Awards Luncheon presented by Forcht Bank**, 12 - 1:30 p.m., at Central Bank Center.
- SEE PAGE 10

SEPTEMBER 2023:

4 Commerce Lexington offices closed in observance of Labor Day holiday.

5 Nominations for 2024 Commerce Lexington Board of Directors due by 5:00 p.m. - SEE PAGE 3

14 **Opportunity Exchange presented by Equity Solutions Group**, 5 - 7:30 p.m., at Lyric Theatre. - SEE PAGE 12

19 **Business Link sponsored and hosted by Lexmark International** (740 W. New Circle Rd.), 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.