

Message from the Board Chair

On behalf of Commerce Lexington Inc. and its Board of Directors, I would like to thank you not only for participating in the 2019 Raleigh Leadership Visit presented by Central Bank & Trust Co., but also for being engaged in conversations about our region's most challenging issues. For many years, Commerce Lexington's intercity trips have helped expose Central Kentucky leaders to ideas and initiatives in many top-performing communities across the country in order to inspire action back home.

As North Carolina's capital city, Raleigh (Wake County) is consistently rated as one of the best places in the nation to raise a family, get a great education, access first-rate healthcare, to do business, and much more. During this trip, we'll take a closer look at what's worked well within the Research Triangle, such as regional collaboration, talent attraction, and a quality education system. However, just like Lexington, Raleigh's reputation as an attractive place to live and work has brought challenges, such as rapid population growth, housing affordability, and the need to ensure opportunities for all.

We'll begin our visit on the campus of North Carolina State University at the James B. Hunt Library. Just outside our meeting room is the Emerging Issues Commons, a space that was designed to bring North Carolinians together and inspire action around the state's most pressing issues. As you explore this space and experience Raleigh over the next few days, I encourage you to take note of what inspires you the most and how it could be applied to Central Kentucky.

This year marks Commerce Lexington's first visit to The City of Oaks since 2002, and we are excited to see how Raleigh has changed for the better. I was born just down the road in Chapel Hill but moved to Lexington at a very young age. Over the years, I have traveled back often to see family and friends, and I am amazed at the transformation of this region over the past 50-plus years. I can honestly say that if I did not live in Lexington, I would consider Raleigh among my top choices.

Thank you again for joining us on this trip. The fact that you would take three days out of your busy schedule and away from the office and your family says a lot about your love for the Bluegrass Region and your commitment to making it the best it can be. I look forward to interacting with you and hearing your great ideas this week.

Sincerely,



JEFF KOONCE
2019 BOARD CHAIR
COMMERCE LEXINGTON INC.

MARKET PRESIDENT,
WESBANCO BANK

