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KENTUCKY EXPECTING ONGOING GROWTH IN 2019

Strong bourbon, vehicle production, logistics sectors should offset
agribusiness weakness, keep most state businesses expanding



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EMPOWERING GROWTH: MAKING KENTUCKY A GREAT PLACE TO START AND EXPAND A BUSINESS

Here are five ways the state's largest energy company, Louisville Gas and Electric and Kentucky Utilities, are doing their part to support economic development in the Bluegrass State, to make it even more appealing to new companies and those interested in growing their operations.



1 AFFORDABLE RATES

Kentucky has the lowest cost of electricity in the industrial sector among states east of the Mississippi River and one of the lowest in the U.S., coming in nearly 20 percent lower than the national average.

2 SAFE, RELIABLE, ENERGY

LG&E and KU continue to ensure safe, reliable service for customers by investing more than \$2.2 billion in its electric and natural gas system to improve safety, reliability and reduce the frequency and duration of outages. In 2016 and 2017, the company experienced its best reliability performance over the last 10 years. In fact, LG&E and KU have reduced the frequency of outages and their duration by 35 percent and 34 percent, respectively, since 2010. Ongoing planned system improvements over the next five years are projected to reduce the frequency of outages by 26 percent and duration of outages by 17 percent, compared to historical system performance over the last seven years.

3 AWARD-WINNING SERVICE

Since 2010, Site Selection magazine has recognized LG&E and KU's economic development efforts six times, along with two honorable mentions. The company has been recognized numerous times for its award-winning customer service.

4 FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

New and expanding qualifying customers are offered a financial incentive to invest through LG&E and KU's Economic Development Rider. The rider encourages brownfield development and economic development for existing customers who expand – or new customers who locate in our service territory – by providing demand bill credits over the first five years of a new service.

5 RENEWABLE ENERGY OPTIONS

LG&E and KU have expanded their portfolio of renewable energy options for customers, with programs such as business solar, Solar Share and Green Energy. Whether interested businesses want to install solar energy on-site, or subscribe to help grow local and regional renewable energy, LG&E and KU partner with customers to meet their sustainability goals.

lge-ku.com/economic-development



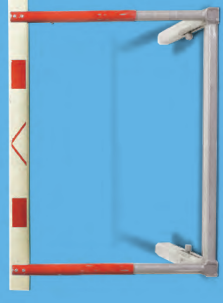


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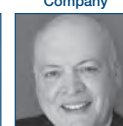
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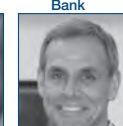
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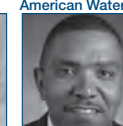
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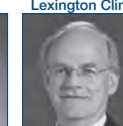
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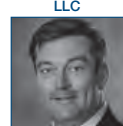
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The Lane Report is published monthly by:

Lane Communications Group

601 West Short St

Lexington, KY 40508

editorial@lanereport.com

For more information and

advertising rates contact:

PHONE: 859-244-3500

The annual subscription rate is \$29.
(Kentucky residents add \$1.74 sales tax.)
Newsstand price is \$4.50.

Send check or money order to:

Circulation Manager, THE LANE REPORT

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PERSPECTIVE

WE ALL HAVE A BIG STAKE IN THIS

Business, education leaders
set 4 urgent goals for decade

BY DAVE ADKISSON
AND AARON THOMPSON

KENTUCKY must aggressively up its game if we're going to compete for talent and quality jobs in today's international economy.

Top-flight education and the workforce it produces are key factors in the success of the state and its citizens, but we are struggling to educate and train enough people to be productive and responsible citizens and employees.

The struggle extends to our efforts to retain and attract talent to create the jobs of the future that will fuel prosperity and encourage entrepreneurs, emerging leaders and business owners to live and work here.

If all of us – the business community, educators, elected officials, families, public policymakers and advocates – can join forces immediately to make significant changes, Kentucky will benefit from economic competitiveness and growth in ways we have never experienced before.

We must change our thinking, our focus and our work. It isn't enough to strive for average; we must set an ambitious goal of moving Kentucky into the top tier of states – achieving the top 10 on key indicators that reflect education and workforce quality. We must be first in the nation in improving the alignment of our talent development systems with employment opportunities.

The challenges of doing this cannot be overstated, but Kentucky is up to the task. Commitment and hard work fueled our progress during the past generation from the bottom of national education rankings to the middle of the pack – and occasionally higher on some. But that progress has slowed, and in some cases our gains have been reversed. The need for a renewed commitment is urgent.

That renewed commitment is the foundation of an effort that we believe offers great promise for accelerating the state's movement in the right direction. Public- and private-sector leaders have come together as the Kentucky Business-Education Roundtable to craft an ambitious agenda for creating opportunity for

Kentucky's citizens and strengthening the pipeline between education and employment.

That agenda was highlighted in the Roundtable's recently released report, "Striving to be Top Tier for Talent: Average Isn't Good Enough," that delivered a strong message about the need for action around four key goals:

- Investing in early childhood and preschool – to give kids a solid start.
- Reinventing high school – to make a diploma relevant for the modern economy.
- Ensuring every adult obtains a marketable degree or credential.
- Engaging employers to define needed skills and develop talent supply chains.

While we must act now, we also must recognize that this work will need a sustained effort over the next decade, and maybe longer. We also must recognize that this is a shared responsibility among educators, employers, elected officials, advocates, families and policymakers in every part of the commonwealth. We all have a significant stake in this work and must be accountable for its results.

The call to action is twofold: For employers to step up and clearly engage in defining their employment needs and ways to meet them and for schools, colleges, universities and other training organizations to strengthen their efforts to produce the talent we must have in the commonwealth.

The Roundtable will continue its work in the coming months to engage other stakeholders in defining specific needs and considerations, to set priorities for policy and program changes, and to determine what resources will be needed to support the work.

The need could not be more urgent. If we do not act, we are condemning our state and our children to a future where struggles will be more common than success and where opportunities will be outnumbered by obstacles. That future cannot be acceptable to anyone who loves Kentucky. ■



Dave Adkisson is president and CEO
of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce



Dr. Aaron Thompson is president
of the Kentucky Council on
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FAST LANE

A compilation of economic news from across Kentucky

LOUISVILLE

HILLIARD LYONS TO BECOME PART OF BAIRD; COMPANY WILL RETAIN A 'SIGNIFICANT PRESENCE' IN LOUISVILLE

HL Financial Services, the parent company of Louisville-based wealth management firm **Hilliard Lyons** and **Hilliard Lyons Trust Co.**, agreed to sell the two companies to **Baird**, an international financial services firm.

The agreement has been approved by Bowling Green-based **Houchens Industries Inc.**, the majority shareholder of HL Financial Services. Financial details of the agreement have not been released.

Established in 1854, Hilliard Lyons is one of the nation's oldest investment firms. It has nearly 1,000 employees, including more than 380 financial advisors, in more than 70 offices in 11 states. Along with sister company Hilliard Lyons Trust Co., the firm offers wealth management, trust and estate planning services, investment banking, municipal finance and asset management services. The company has over \$50 billion in client assets and had more than \$280 million in revenue for its fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2018.

Baird, established in 1919 and headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisc., is an employee-owned wealth management, capital markets, private equity and asset management firm with more than \$200 billion in client assets. The company has over 3,450 associates, including 890 financial advisors, at 97 locations in 30 states.

Hilliard Lyons' top leadership – Chairman and CEO Jim Allen, President Tom Kessinger III and Executive Vice President and Director, Private Wealth Alan Newman – will stay in their roles, working with Baird's private wealth management (PWM) leadership to ensure a smooth transition for the firm and its clients. When the merger is completed, likely in the second half of 2019, Allen will serve as a vice chairman of Baird and a member of Baird's executive committee out of Louisville; Kessinger will serve in a PWM leadership role in Lexington while continuing to serve his wealth management clients; and Newman will serve in a PWM leadership role in Evansville, Ind. All will remain active in their respective communities as leaders at Baird.

Baird has said the company plans to maintain a "significant presence in the Louisville community."



STATE

KENTUCKY LAUNCHES COMMERCIALIZATION CENTER TO HELP TAKE INNOVATIVE IDEAS INTO THE MARKETPLACE

KENTUCKY has created a partnership between the state's universities and colleges to translate intellectual property and innovations into market-ready products.

Led by the Cabinet for Economic Development's **KY Innovation** office, the **University of Kentucky** and the **University of Louisville**, the idea behind the Commonwealth Commercialization Center (C3) is to have one place for Kentucky schools, their faculty and students to find support for commercializing their innovations and inventions. There is also hope that companies looking to invest in Kentucky will reach out to C3 to find research or innovation help.



C3 will be funded in part through a \$1.2 million grant from KY Innovation.

"C3 will offer a single point of entry for startups and corporations interested in engaging with our universities and the talent and innovation that can fuel growth for their businesses," said Brian Mefford, executive director of KY Innovation. "We want C3 to become known as a key partner for innovation, research and development for entrepreneurs

and CEOs who are looking to locate or grow their business in Kentucky."

The state's flagship universities will also use KY Innovation resources to connect all public institutions with federally funded commercialization and entrepreneurship programs, allow easier access to the marketplace for research-driven IP, promote industry-sponsored collaborative research opportunities for all participants and aggressively pursue grants.

LOUISVILLE

THORNTONS BEING BOUGHT BY PARTNERSHIP THAT WILL KEEP NAME, EMPLOYEES

THORNTONS Inc., a Louisville-based gas and convenience store chain that is one of the city's largest private employers, has agreed to be acquired by a joint venture created between affiliates of **ArcLight Capital Partners** and **BP**.

The joint venture will continue to operate all existing stores under the Thorntons name and will retain the employees working out of the store support center in Louisville.



Thorntons gas stations and convenience stores will continue to operate under the Thorntons name following its acquisition by a joint venture between BP and ArcLight Capital Partners.

Thorntons currently operates 191 stores across Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and Tennessee. The company employs approximately 2,500 people, some 950 of whom are located in Louisville. The company had \$1.8 billion in revenue for its most recent fiscal year.

Energy giant BP, headquartered in Great Britain, operates in 70 countries with 74,000 employees. Boston-based ArcLight is a leading private equity firm that focuses on energy infrastructure investments.

"My family and the Thorntons team are incredibly proud of the company we have built over the last 47 years. While we are proud of where we are today, our vision extends well beyond 191 stores in six states and we know this new joint venture will help us to accelerate store growth and serve even more guests every day," said Thorntons Chairman and CEO Matt Thornton. "We are excited to begin this new chapter and are pleased that we are able to take these next steps in our hometown working with our existing team. This partnership is a win-win for everyone involved."

Financial details of the transaction have not been disclosed.

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Ky. Tourism photo

BARDSTOWN

■ **Heaven Hill Distillery** has announced plans for a \$17.5 million renovation, expansion and rebrand of its Bourbon Heritage Center. The project is part of a multi-year \$65 million investment plan to expand production capacity in Bardstown. In addition to the visitor center expansion, Heaven Hill will also be adding production capacity with new barrel warehousing, bottling line and equipment upgrades, and increased holdings of aging bourbon whiskey, amounting to a total of \$47.5 million.

BULLITT COUNTY

■ The state has announced plans to construct a new interchange on Interstate 65 in Bullitt County, south of Shepherdsville. State and local officials say the new interchange will reduce the travel distance between I-65 and the **Cedar Grove Business Park**, improving connectivity and supporting increased economic development in the county. Current occupants of the business park include major employers such as **Amazon** and **Gordon Food Services**.

DANVILLE

■ **Centre College** is building a new 176-bed residence hall that is set to be complete by August. Since the new building will provide housing for additional growth of the student body, it gives the college the flexibility to close older housing that can no longer be managed.

EASTERN KENTUCKY

■ The **Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation** has been selected to receive a **USDA** rural development grant of more than \$337,000 to support rural health-care facilities in Hazard, Carlisle, Owingsville and Williamstown. The project will train health professionals and peer recovery specialists in the prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery support of opioid use disorder.

■ **Big Sandy Health Care Inc.** will receive nearly \$371,000 from the **USDA** to provide primary care, specialty care, opioid education, counseling and treatment via telemedicine and distance learning in five school sites and five clinic sites in a four-county area of Eastern Kentucky. Patients at the clinics will be able to participate in educational sessions through distance learning technology and receive telemedicine visits from specialty providers not available at the clinics.



FLORENCE

■ The **University of the Cumberlands** has begun accepting applications for a new physician-assistant program at its Northern Kentucky campus in Florence, where classes are slated to begin next fall. The program has also partnered with **Appalachian Regional Healthcare**, which will provide 300 clinical rotation slots to UC's Northern Kentucky PA students. According to the **U.S. Bureau of**

Labor Statistics, the rate of employment for PAs is growing significantly faster than the national average. The median yearly wage of PAs in 2017 was \$104,860.

FRANKFORT

■ Louisville-based **Goodwood Brewery** has announced plans to open a brewpub in the historic **Vatter** building in downtown Frankfort, overlooking the Kentucky River. The new location will house an onsite brewery and full kitchen that will serve lunch and dinner.

HEBRON

■ **Pomeroy**, long one of Northern Kentucky's largest companies, is now officially operating as **Getronics** following its acquisition last July by the Netherlands-based IT services firm. As part of the restructuring, 32 jobs are being cut at the company's Hebron headquarters facility and the global service center in Hebron will close by the end of February, eliminating 163 jobs.

LOUISVILLE

BRIGHTSPRING, PHARMERICA MERGE TO TARGET HIGH NEEDS HOME CARE MARKET

BRIGHTSPRING Health Services (formerly **ResCare**) and **PharMerica Corp.** have announced plans to join together to become a leading provider of home and community-based health and pharmacy services for high-need and medically complex individuals.

Louisville-based BrightSpring Health Services is one of the nation's largest providers of diversified home and community-based health services to complex populations of all ages. Its primary businesses include: behavioral health (including autism services); home health care; neuro therapies; pharmacy and telecare ancillary technologies and services; and job placement and vocational training. BrightSpring employs more than 40,000 people in over 40 states.

PharMerica, also headquartered in Louisville, serves the long-term care, hospital pharmacy management services, specialty home infusion, and oncology pharmacy markets through 96 institutional pharmacies, 20 specialty home infusion pharmacies and five specialty oncology pharmacies in 45 states.

Following the close of the transaction, BrightSpring President and CEO Jon B. Rousseau will lead the combined company with PharMerica President and CEO Greg Weishar serving as a strategic advisor and continuing on the board of directors.

As part of the transaction, private equity firm **Onex Corp.** is selling its interest in BrightSpring. Upon close, the combined enterprise will be owned by **KKR** with an affiliate of **Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc.** as a minority investor.

EASTERN KENTUCKY

NCI GRANT EXPANDS MARKEY ONCOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM TO HIGH SCHOOLERS

AFTER successfully launching an oncology training program for Appalachian undergraduate students in 2016, the **University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center** is now expanding the program to include high school students.

The Appalachian Career Training in Oncology (ACTION) Program is funded through a nearly \$2.3 million grant from the **National Cancer Institute**.

ACTION is a two-year program that provides students with research and clinical experience through both Markey and **UK HealthCare**, mentoring, professional development, and outreach opportunities in their own communities. High school students will participate in a residential camp on UK's campus for five to six weeks during the summers, and will engage in academic activities from home throughout the rest of the year. Each student will have a goal of planning one outreach event in their hometown per year.

"It's a training program that really gets to the heart of the cancer problem in Kentucky," said Nathan Vanderford, director of ACTION and assistant professor in the UK College of Medicine. "We're training these students to be change agents in their own communities."



Kristin O'Leary, a participant in the ACTION program, studying acute lymphoblastic leukemia in the lab.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

HEBRON

■ Spirits retailer **Cork N' Bottle** has opened a satellite store in Concourse A of the **Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport**. The 200-s.f. store offers a variety of spirits with a focus on Kentucky bourbon and serves as a "trail-head" for Kentucky's popular bourbon trail.



CVG photo

HENDERSON

■ The **Kentucky Network for Development, Leadership and Engagement (KYNDLE)** has opened a new co-working space in Henderson that allows individual entrepreneurs the opportunity to work independently or collaboratively in an affordable, shared office space. The Henderson Entrepreneurial and Technology (HEAT) Lab offers members high-speed fiber internet connections, conference rooms, essential operating services, mailing services, and access to start-up advisory and mentoring services, as well as professional development training opportunities.

■ **Nylene** (Custom Resins), a company that has been producing nylon in Henderson since 1957, has broken ground on an \$8 million expansion project that will double the company's existing square footage by adding 80,000 s.f. The company anticipates adding 40 new jobs as a result of the expansion. Construction is expected to be complete by July.

LEXINGTON

■ **Gray Construction**, a Lexington-based design-build firm, has completed the first step of a long-term collaboration with **SPEC Engineering**, a specialty process engineering and equipment fabrication company located in Plainfield, Ill. SPEC is becoming affiliated with the Gray Inc. family of companies through an initial equity investment and other capital support by Gray, with the equity stake expected to grow substantially over time. SPEC has 40 years of experience in the food and beverage, bakery, nutritional, chemical and energy markets, with specialized capabilities in dry material-handling systems.



■ Lexington-based **Community Ventures** has been recognized by the **Kentucky Small Business Administration** for the 12th year in a row for its high-impact efforts in lending throughout Kentucky. The company has

been named SBA Microlender of the Year and SBA 504 Lender of the Year. The Microlender of the Year award was presented in recognition of Community Ventures' efforts to extend lending opportunities to startups and entrepreneurs throughout the state. The 504 Loan Program focuses on promoting the growth of small- and medium-sized businesses by expanding their access to affordable long-term, low-interest, fixed-asset financing.

■ After a lengthy delay in construction, a \$220 million mixed-used project in downtown Lexington – once called **CentrePoint** and now known as **City Center** – is finally taking shape. **The Webb Cos.**, which is developing the property, has announced that **The Lexington Marriott City Center** and **Residence Inn Lexington City Center** are set to open in fall 2019. The hotels will share some amenities, such as a fitness center and a rooftop pool and sky bar, and will both be serviced by a three-story underground parking structure.

LOUISVILLE

■ **Mondi Bags USA** has closed its plant in Louisville, where it produced woven polypropylene industrial bags for the agricultural feed, pet, food and specialty chemical industries. In announcing the closure, the company said the plant's "product portfolio is not a core part of our business and is no longer sustainable." The closure eliminated 100 jobs.

■ **Historic Locust Grove Inc.** has received a \$1 million gift from the late B. Preston Thomas, a longtime board member, to lead its \$3.2 million capital campaign. Locust Grove is a 55-acre, 18th-century farm site and national historic landmark in eastern Jefferson County owned by the **Louisville Metro** government and operated as a historic interpretive site by Historic Locust Grove Inc. Funds raised for the capital campaign will be used to refurbish and enhance the visitors' center, build a pavilion for additional programming and rental space, and improve access and connections between the grounds and outbuildings.

STATE

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIPS PROGRAM EXPANDS TO HELP KENTUCKY EMPLOYERS

A national apprenticeship program is now helping Kentucky manufacturers tackle their workforce needs through registered apprenticeship programs.

Based in Huntington, W.Va., the **Robert C. Byrd Institute (RCBI)** launched its **Apprenticeship Works** initiative in 2016, with support from a U.S. Department of Labor grant. Since then, the apprenticeship initiative has grown steadily as manufacturers across the U.S. have recognized the benefits of an apprenticeship program in resolving their training needs.

Kentucky's apprenticeship office approved the Apprenticeship Works' standards last fall. The approval gives the initiative permission to work directly with manufacturers to establish and manage their apprenticeship programs, making apprenticeship more accessible and affordable.

The first Kentucky company to partner with Apprenticeship Works is **Hydraulic Services and Supply in Ashland**, which is launching an apprenticeship to train programmers of its CNC (computer numerical control) machines.

The RCBI program also operates in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Maine, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia.



RCBI photo
Hydraulic Services and Supply in Ashland is partnering with the Apprenticeship Works initiative to train CNC programmers.

STATE

KY GAINS FEDERAL APPROVAL TO MOVE FORWARD WITH MEDICAID WAIVER PLAN

KENTUCKY has received approval from the federal **Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)** to proceed with the implementation of community engagement and premium requirements for its Medicaid waiver plan known as **Kentucky HEALTH** (Helping to Engage and Achieve Long Term Health).

Kentucky HEALTH involves requiring Medicaid recipients who are deemed "able-bodied" to complete 80 hours of community engagement each month. Work, attending school or volunteering all qualify as community engagement. The plan originally gained federal approval in early 2018 but was sent back for further review due to litigation.

While the plan has met opposition from some, supporters note that it enables recipients to earn rewards for healthy lifestyle choices and gives them a stake in their health-care services, which could lead to improved long-term health.

The plan also includes expanded access to substance use disorder (SUD) treatment for Medicaid beneficiaries.

Estimates from the state project that Kentucky HEALTH will save the Kentucky's Medicaid program more than \$2 billion during the five-year demonstration period, with more than \$300 million in savings to Kentucky's General Fund. State officials also say the plan will ensure availability of Medicaid resources to those who need it most.

With the CMS approval, the program can begin as soon as April 1, 2019.

STATE

INITIATIVE AIMS TO ENSURE COLLEGE GRADS HAVE 'EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS'

THE Council on Postsecondary Education, joined by six Kentucky colleges and universities, has launched an initiative that brings together employers and educators to ensure that higher education programs are graduating students with "essential employability qualities."

Essential employability qualities include people skills such as collaboration and teamwork; problem-solving abilities; and professional strengths such as communication, work ethic and technological agility. Over the course of the 18-month initiative, 20 programs at the associate and bachelor's levels will be assessed.



"Employers are telling us what they look for and need in their employees," said CPE President Aaron Thompson. "This strategic initiative builds bridges from the classroom to the workplace to fulfill those needs, while adding significantly more value to the degrees our students earn by their ability to thrive in a rapidly changing workplace over the duration of their careers."

Participating institutions include **Bluegrass Community and Technical College**, **Gateway Community and Technical College**, **Jefferson Community and Technical College**, **Kentucky State University**, **Murray State University** and the **University of Kentucky**.

WESTERN KENTUCKY

MURRAY STATE TO LEAD REGIONAL HUB DESIGNED TO SUPPORT AREA STARTUPS

THE KY Innovation office has selected **Murray State University** and its partners to establish a regional hub in Western Kentucky that will attract, cultivate and serve more innovative entrepreneurs and startup businesses in the area.

Murray State University's Center for Telecommunications Systems Management (CTSM) will partner with the **Technology Council of West Kentucky** (TCWK) and entrepreneurship providers to launch a Regional Innovation for Startups and Entrepreneurs (RISE) hub in Western Kentucky.

RISE hubs are part of KY Innovation's 120-county effort to modernize Kentucky's support for high-tech, high-growth-potential businesses. West Kentucky's consortium, which includes partners in Murray, Henderson, Hopkinsville, Madisonville and Paducah, will build on the successes of area tech startups, focus on regional collaboration to support early-stage businesses through capitalization and commercialization, and develop the region's culture for supporting entrepreneurs and innovative startups. In addition to Murray State's CTSM and Small Business Development Center and TCWK, the **Purchase and Pennyriple Area Development Districts** will also act as lead partners.

The partners will provide businesses and entrepreneurs a full range of services, including business planning, investor-financing readiness evaluations, software development vetting, and advising on the incorporation process, tax and permitting obligations, intellectual property protections and partnership agreements.

The west Kentucky innovation hub will receive \$428,684 in state funding, representing a nearly threefold increase in annual funding over the prior Kentucky Innovation Network office model.

KY Innovation recently announced hubs for Eastern and Central Kentucky as well.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

LOUISVILLE

■ **Messer/Harmon JV** (joint venture) has been named the construction contractor for **Louisville City Football Club's** new \$65 million soccer stadium. The 11,300-seat stadium is the centerpiece of a \$200 million, 40-acre mixed-used development adjacent to Louisville's Waterfront Park near downtown. The two companies have teamed up before to build the \$63 million expansion of UofL's **Cardinal Stadium**.



■ **The Humana Foundation**, the philanthropic arm of Louisville-based Humana Inc., has launched a new community relations initiative in Louisville. The initiative awarded \$2 million to Louisville-area organizations in 2018, with over \$1 million of that in grants ranging from \$25,000 up to a maximum of \$100,000. Grants are awarded to proposals that improve the quality of life in the Louisville area and quality of place proposals that make the area a more appealing place to live.

■ **The University of Louisville** has expanded its Regional Scholars Program for out-of-state students to include Evansville and Indianapolis. The program provides eligible prospective students from designated areas outside of Kentucky with up to \$16,000 in scholarships to attend UofL. The initiative is part of an effort to increase out-of-state enrollment by offering financial incentives. Prospective students who meet eligibility requirements are automatically awarded a \$10,000 tuition discount upon their acceptance. Other areas included in the Regional Scholars Program include Chicago, Cincinnati, Dallas, Nashville and Washington, D.C.

Ford photo



■ **Ford Motor Co.** is shifting personnel in Louisville to ramp up production of its high-demand SUVs and pickup trucks. The company plans to eliminate a shift at the **Louisville Assembly Plant (LAP)**, which produces the **Ford Escape** compact SUV and

the **Lincoln MKC** luxury crossover SUV, and will move those 500 employees over to the **Kentucky Truck Plant**, which produces the **Ford Expedition** and **Lincoln Navigator** models. According to Ford, Navigator sales are up more than 80 percent over the last year while Expedition sales are up 36 percent. In response, Ford plans to increase production of the Expedition and Navigator by 20 percent.

■ **Baptist Health** has accepted a buyout offer from **Personal Fitness & Rehabilitation** for its ownership stake in **Baptist Health Performance Training LLC** in Louisville. The facility will continue to be owned by several investors, including NFL and former **University of Louisville** football players Breno Giacomini, Eric Wood, Deion Branch and Chris Redman, along with Chad Miller, one of the partners in Personal Fitness & Rehabilitation.

■ **Churchill Downs Inc.** has signed an agreement to pay \$291 million in cash to acquire 100 percent of the ownership stake in **Midwest Gaming Holdings** held by **Clairvest Group Inc.** Midwest Gaming is the parent company of **Rivers Casino Des Plaines** in Des Plaines, Ill., just outside of Chicago. The acquisition will give CDI a 50.1 percent interest in the casino. CDI has also offered to purchase additional units of Midwest Gaming held by **High Plains Gaming**, an affiliate of **Rush Street Gaming** and **Casino Investors**. After the closing, CDI and Rush Street will control Rivers Des Plaines, with Rush Street's management team handling the day-to-day operations. CDI CEO Bill Carstanjen said the transactions reflect CDI's strategy of investing in gaming properties with stable, predictable cash flows in diverse markets, particularly in populous states that may ultimately grant access to online casino gaming and sports betting to their brick-and-mortar casino license holders.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

LOUISVILLE

■ **Appriss Inc.**, a Louisville-based data and analytics services provider, has moved into its new headquarters building in Jeffersonton. The move is part of an \$11.3 million expansion that includes adding 200 jobs with an average wage of \$80,000 per year. The company currently employs 670 people in Louisville, Southern California, the UK and Poland. Appriss' new headquarters building was previously occupied by **BrightSpring Health Services** (formerly **ResCare Inc.**), which recently moved into a new facility in Louisville.

■ **Turning Point Brands**, a Louisville company that is a leading marketer of tobacco products, has acquired a 19.99 percent stake in **Canadian**

American Standard Hemp Inc. (CASH). Turning Point President and CEO Larry Wexler said the investment "is the first of many moves the company expects to make in the flourishing alternative products space." Turning Point's products include chewing tobacco, cigars, pipe tobacco and electronic vapor products, sold under brands such as **Stoker's**, **Beech-Nut**, **Zig-Zag** and **VaporBeast**.



NORTHERN KENTUCKY

■ The **Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce** has partnered with **.Jobs** to provide its members a new and improved talent-attraction website. The new website acts as a central geographic resource for employers and job seekers within the Northern Kentucky region and is available to chamber members for no charge. Employers looking to expand their reach will be able to programmatically distribute their job posts to the .Jobs Universe, which is comprised of more than 35,000 sites based on geography, industry and niche.

PIKEVILLE

■ The **University of Pikeville Inc.** has been awarded \$128,675 from the **USDA** to expand its distance-learning facilities for a program that will deliver a career- and business-driven curriculum to high students throughout a seven-county area in rural Eastern Kentucky. The grant will provide computers, video conferencing units, software and infrastructure to support STEM-based education (science, technology, engineering and math) at 16 end-user sites, allowing students at multiple schools to interact with one another as well as with the individuals leading the session.

RICHMOND

■ Beginning in fall 2019, students enrolled at **Eastern Kentucky University** will be able to earn scholarships based on prior EKU dual-credit course work for their performance on advanced placement (AP) exams. The Study Strong Award, which provides one-time scholarships of up to \$2,400, can be stacked on top of EKU's new merit awards and combined with other scholarships and financial aid. Study Strong is designed to enhance the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES), which rewards strong high-school GPAs and ACT scores, and provide an additional incentive for students who challenge themselves with college coursework in high school.

VERSAILLES

■ **Ledvance** has informed employees that the company plans to close its Versailles plant by September 2019, a decision that will eliminate 260 jobs. In a statement announcing the decision, company officials noted that the lighting industry continues to move toward LED products and is seeing diminished demand for the fluorescent tubes and traditional light bulbs and flood lights manufactured at the Versailles facility. The **Midwest Distribution Center and R&D Lab** in Versailles, which employs approximately 100 employees, will not be affected by the plant closing.

WHITLEY COUNTY

■ **Dataseam**, a Louisville company that provides industry certifications and technical support to help IT professionals in schools utilize education technology, has created a new apprenticeship program in Whitley County. Through the two-year paid apprenticeship program, Whitley County students will work alongside experienced professionals to maintain, configure, install, repair and troubleshoot computer, network and software at their school. Dataseam is also supplying the school district with more than \$15,000 of computers to benefit all students.

STATE

4 KENTUCKY COMPANIES RECOGNIZED FOR WORK IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

THE World Trade Center Kentucky recently honored four companies selected to receive the 2018 Martha Layne Collins Award for Excellence in International Trade.

Named for Kentucky's 56th governor, the annual award is given to companies that have excelled in international business and successfully navigated global trade markets in order to positively benefit the state. Collins was instrumental in attracting numerous Japanese automotive makers and parts suppliers to Kentucky in the mid-1980s.

The 2018 award recipients included:

- Small Enterprise (50 or fewer employees): **ACE Compressor Parts & Services Inc.**, Mayfield
- Medium Enterprise (500 or fewer employees): **Dippin' Dots**, Paducah, and **Against the Grain**, Louisville
- Large Enterprise (greater than 500 employees): **Zoeller Co.**, Louisville

The award is based on a company's success through outstanding commitment to and performance in international trade; evidence of executive management and organization-wide commitment to international business; uniqueness and creativity of international strategy/plan; and overall contributions to the local community through world trade.



NORTHERN KENTUCKY

STATE GRANT BOOSTS REGION'S EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE HIGH-TECH INNOVATION

THE NKY Entrepreneurship Council has received a \$750,000 grant to emphasize entrepreneurship and innovation as part of Northern Kentucky's economic development.

The funding is part of the state's new RISE (Regional Innovation for Startups and Entrepreneurs) program, a 120-county effort to modernize the Kentucky's support for high-tech, high-growth-potential businesses.

The Entrepreneurship Council was formed last year by the **Northern Kentucky Tri-County Economic Development Corp.** (Tri-ED) to take a new approach to economic development that collaborates with community partners to share goals and resources. The council consists of both public and private-sector leaders and includes **Northern Kentucky University**, **Aviatra Accelerators**, **Cintrifuse**, **Gateway Community and Technical College**, **Square1** and **UpTech**. Normand Desmarais, NKU board of regents' secretary and co-founder of **TIER1 Performance Solutions**, serves as chair of the NKYEC.

The council plans to use the funding to establish an innovation cluster that will focus on informatics, health innovation and logistics innovation.

"We now have the resources and a new private-sector-driven model to accelerate business success," said Desmarais. "We are adopting and implementing best practices in innovation from entrepreneurial communities around the world, deploying the latest in digital and social technologies, and connecting entrepreneurs to resources specific to their business and personal needs."

The Entrepreneurship Council plans to match the grant with local dollars to drive even greater results for the region.

STATE

NEW C-TECH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM MEETS NEED FOR TELECOM WORKERS

In a partnership with the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, **C-Tech Associates Inc.** is sponsoring state-approved apprenticeships in Kentucky to help meet the need for more entry-level telecommunications workers.



C-Tech, a leader in career and technical education, has established a network of more than 650 certified training facilities (CTF) across the country that administer training programs, with many sites located across the commonwealth.

The telecommunications apprenticeship program will prepare the next generation of technicians to power the "internet of things." The technicians will be trained to install, test and troubleshoot networking and smart devices for both residential and commercial settings.

Graduates of the C-Tech apprenticeship program will receive internationally recognized certifications in a wide array of disciplines, including telecommunications, network cabling, telephone systems, audio/video installations and green energy systems. Graduates will also receive continuing education credits to help further their careers.

"This program allows apprentices to earn on the job while receiving state-of-the-art training in careers with excellent stability and growth potential," said Derrick Ramsey, secretary of the **Education and Workforce Development Cabinet**.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

WILLIAMSBURG

■ The Master of Science in Nursing-Family Nurse Practitioner program at **University of the Cumberlands** (UC) has officially received accreditation through the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, a national accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Cumberlands' two-year, online program allows registered nurses (RNs) to further their education and become prepared for independent practice as nurse practitioners (NPs). Nurse practitioners are granted more autonomy in their job than RNs and may order tests, write prescriptions and develop treatment plans, among other duties. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, NPs earn approximately \$40,000 more per year than RNs, and there is an expected 31 percent growth for NPs between now and 2026.



STATE

■ Effective Jan. 1, all **HealthSouth** facilities and services in Kentucky are operating as **Encompass Health** as part of a rebranding initiative that the Alabama-based company began in 2018. Encompass Health operates rehabilitation hospitals in Lexington (**Cardinal Hill**), Elizabethtown (**Lakeview**) and Edgewood (**Northern Kentucky Rehabilitation Hospital**); provides home health services in Elizabethtown and Owensboro; and has an outpatient facility in Elizabethtown.

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INTERSTATE LANE

Business news from Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee and West Virginia

BUSINESS BRIEFS

INDIANA

■ **Omen USA**, a manufacturer of aluminum parts for the automotive industry, is investing more than \$15 million to expand its manufacturing operations in Richmond, Ind., adding up to 200 more employees to its 100-member workforce by 2022. The company, a subsidiary of Israel-based **Omen Casting Group**, is adding more square footage and production lines to meet growing demand from U.S. and German automakers for its aluminum drivelines, steering components and oil pumps.

■ **Alliance Steel**, an Illinois-based manufacturer of flat-rolled steel supply and coil processing, is investing nearly \$20 million to establish operations in Gary, Ind. The new facility, which will create up to 130 high-wage jobs by 2023, will allow the company to expand its production to meet customer demand within the automotive, construction, agriculture, transportation, energy, material handling and appliance industries. The Gary plant is expected to be operational by January 2020.



GM photo

OHIO

■ **General Motors' Lordstown Assembly Plant** in Warren, Ohio, is one of three GM assembly plants slated to close in 2019 following the company's recent announcement outlining its plan to improve overall business performance. GM is also closing assembly plants in Detroit and Canada, and propulsion plants in Baltimore and Warren, Mich. GM said

the actions are expected to increase free cash flow by \$6 billion by the end of 2020. Closing the Lordstown plant, which has produced the **Chevrolet Cruze** since 2010, will result in the loss of approximately 1,600 hourly and salaried jobs.

■ Ohio has become the first state in the nation to accept tax payments via **cryptocurrency**. "We're doing this to provide Ohioans more options and ease in paying their taxes and also to project Ohio's leadership in embracing blockchain technology," said Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel. Bitcoin is the only cryptocurrency currently eligible for payment at **OhioCrypto.com**, but Mandel said the state is hoping to add other cryptocurrencies in the future.

■ The **E.W. Scripps Co.** has agreed to pay \$521 million to acquire 15 television stations from **Cordillera Communications**. The acquisition grows the Cincinnati-based media company's local television-station footprint to 51 stations in 36 markets, with a reach of nearly 21 percent of U.S. TV households. In a separate transaction, Scripps is acquiring **Triton**, a global leader of digital audio technology and measurement services, for \$150 million. Triton powers or measures streaming music and podcasting for companies including **Pandora**, **Spotify**, **iHeart** and **Cumulus**.



SCRIPPS



Gaylord/Trammy Henry photo

TENNESSEE

■ **Gaylord Opryland Resort's** much-anticipated \$90 million waterpark in Nashville has officially opened, offering more than 100,000-s.f. of fun for adults and kids alike. **SoundWaves'** indoor attractions include a multi-slide tower; indoor surfing; rapid and lazy rivers; an activity pool with rock climbing, obstacle course and basketball; and private cabana rentals. The outdoor features, which will open this coming summer, include a multi-slide

tower; a wave pool with giant LED movie screen; a kids' pool with a multi-level play structure and more. Guaranteed admission is available only with a SoundWaves Water Experience overnight package at the resort.

■ **Ernst & Young (EY)**, a global professional services firm, is investing more than \$20 million to establish a facility in Nashville that will specialize in managed services for clients and tax technology operations. EY's new **Exceptional Delivery Growth Engine Center** will house software development, design and testing, and focus on delivering technology-enabled tax-managed services for clients. The company expects to hire 600 people over the next five years to support the hub's operations.

TENNESSEE

MIMEO MOVING HQ FROM NEW YORK TO MEMPHIS, CREATING 300 NEW JOBS

MIMEO, an online-managed content distribution and printing company, has announced plans to move its headquarter operations from New York City to Memphis, creating 300 new jobs.



Mimeo manages and distributes content in print and digital formats for a variety of enterprises, educational institutions and consumers. Founded in 1998, the company has grown into a global organization with nearly 1,000 employees across the U.S., Europe and Asia, delivering content in more than 149 countries.

Mimeo's company network includes more than 50 print-production facilities and partners, including its expanding global flagship facility in Memphis.

Mimeo's Memphis facility is located adjacent to the **FedEx Global Hub**, enabling large volumes of last-minute content to be shipped anywhere in the world for delivery as early as the next morning. Company executives said the expansion and location of the headquarters in Memphis will enable Mimeo to better route customer work to the most strategic locations for fulfillment to end delivery.

INDIANA

BRAZILIAN AG-TECH COMPANY TO HIRE MORE THAN 300 FOR NEW U.S. HQ SITE



Brazil-based Solinftec's technology-based farm management system has grown quickly in Latin America and is now moving into the United States.

SOLINFTEC, a digital agriculture company based in Sao Paulo, Brazil, has announced plans to expand its operations to the United States and has selected West Lafayette, Ind., as the site of its U.S. headquarter operations. The

company anticipates hiring 334 employees in West Lafayette by the end of 2022.

Solinftec offers an "internet of things"-based farm management system enabled by a suite of technologies – including proprietary hardware, a telemetry communications network and a software-as-a-service (SaaS) platform – to support the increased efficiency of agricultural operations like planting, harvesting and spraying. The technology digitizes all aspects of agricultural operations, monitoring all processes and providing real-time insights to increase crop returns.

Solinftec grew quickly in Latin America by making sugar cane and row crop operations more efficient. Its solution is now being used in more than 16 million acres and more than 100,000 daily users monitor its equipment in real time.

The new Indiana facility will enable the company to expand its solutions to new crops and accommodate increased demand in North America. The company is now in the process of hiring for positions in sales and IT, as well as data scientists, engineers and agronomists.

THE LANE LIST

THE POWER OF PERSUASION: KENTUCKY'S TOP LOBBYISTS

Ranked by billings

ROUGHLY 450 lobbyists working in Kentucky during the 2018 regular legislative session split earnings of more than \$9.7 million between them, *The Kentucky Gazette* reports. Lobbyists and their employers must file regular spending and compensation reports with the Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission. This list ranks lobbyists by billings reported for January through April 2018 during the 60-day regular session of the Kentucky General Assembly.

RANK	LOBBYIST	BILLINGS	EMPLOYER,CITY
1	John McCarthy III	\$315,003	McCarthy Strategic Solutions, Frankfort
2	Bob Babbage	\$315,000	Babbage Cofounder, Lexington
3	Patrick Jennings	\$281,627	Commonwealth Alliances, Frankfort
4	Ronny Pryor	\$245,800	Capitol Solutions, Prospect
5	Karen Thomas-Lentz	\$209,073	Commonwealth Alliances, Frankfort
6	Sean Cutter	\$201,380	MMLK Government Solutions, Frankfort
7	John Cooper	\$193,405	Capital Link Consultants, Frankfort
8	Leigh Ann Thacker	\$186,267	Top Shelf Lobby, Frankfort
9	Kevin Payton	\$179,800	Top Shelf Lobby, Frankfort
10	Chris Nolan	\$170,847	MMLK Government Solutions, Frankfort
11	Laura Owens	\$162,300	JYB3 Group, Frankfort
12	Jason Bentley	\$160,517	MMLK Government Solutions, Frankfort
13	Marc Wilson	\$148,314	Top Shelf Lobby, Frankfort
14	Jason Underwood	\$145,000	Capital Strategies, Louisville
15	Kelley Abell	\$127,350	The Rotunda Group, Louisville
16	James Higdon	\$123,867	MMLK Government Solutions, Frankfort
17	Rachel Bayens	\$122,654	Government Strategies, Frankfort
18	Dustin Miller	\$115,963	Government Strategies, Frankfort
19	Russ Woodward	\$105,804	Capital Link, Frankfort
20	John Y. Brown III	\$103,875	JYB3 Group, Frankfort
21	Katherine Hall	\$101,328	Commonwealth Alliances, Frankfort
22	Prentice Harvey	\$96,407	Government Strategies, Frankfort
23	Bart Baldwin	\$96,218	Bart Baldwin Consulting, Frankfort
24	Michael Shea	\$94,439	Government Strategies, Frankfort
25	Renee Craddock	\$92,627	Consultant, Lexington
26	David Moss	\$90,000	North Star Strategies, Lexington
27	Mike Helton	\$86,160	Government Strategies, Frankfort
28	Marie Cull	\$85,798	Attorney, Frankfort
29	Amy Wickliffe	\$83,911	McCarthy Strategic Solutions, Frankfort
30	Brooke Parker Robertson	\$81,450	Frost Brown Todd, Lexington

Additional lobbyists: **31 Steve Robertson**, Frost Brown Todd, Lexington; **32 Richie Sanders**, Capital Link, Frankfort; **33 Stephen Huffman**, HCM Governmental Relations, Lexington; **34 Greg Brotzge**, Impact Government Relations, Louisville; **35 David M. Whitehouse**, Whitehouse Group, Lexington; **36 William May III**, HCM Government Relations, Lexington; **37 John "Tom" Underwood IV**, The Rotunda Group, Louisville; **38 Trey Grayson**, Frost Brown Todd, Florence; **39 Mike Biagi**, The Rotunda Group, Louisville; **40 James "Jitter" Allen**, Allen and Associates, Frankfort; **41 Julie Denton**, The Denton Group, Louisville; **42 Stephanie Stumbo**, Goss Samford, Lexington; **43 Julia Crigler**, Commonwealth Alliances, Frankfort; **44 Jason Baird**, The Limestone Group, Frankfort; **45 Ellen Williams**, Ellen Williams LLC Frankfort; **46 Judy Taylor**, Keeneland Association, Lexington; **47 Libby Milligan**, McCarthy Strategic Solutions, Frankfort; **48 Bert May**, Dinsmore, Frankfort; **49 Timothy Corrigan**, The Rotunda Group, Louisville; **50 Sherman Brown**, McCarthy Strategic Solutions, Frankfort; **51 Lloyd "Rusty" Cress Jr.**, Dinsmore, Frankfort; **52 Jeffrey Busick**, McCarthy Strategic Solutions, Frankfort; **53 Elizabeth Owens**, JYB3 Group, Frankfort; **54 Andrew "Skipper" Martin**, McCarthy Strategic Solutions, Frankfort; **55 Pamela Jenkins**, Consultant, Lexington; **56 Matt Niehaus**, McCarthy Strategic Solutions, Frankfort; **57 Carl Breeding**, Dinsmore, Frankfort; **58 Ronald Geoghegan**, McCarthy Strategic Solutions, Frankfort; **59 Gay Dwyer**, Consultant, Frankfort; **60 Ed O'Daniel Jr.**, Consultant, Springfield; **61 Charles Lambert**, MMLK Government Solutions, Frankfort; **62 Julie Babbage**, Babbage Cofounder, Lexington; **63 Warren McLean**, McLean Communications, Frankfort; **64 Greg Coker**, Capital Link Consultants, Frankfort; **65 Jerald Young**, Consultant, Frankfort; **66 Sheila Schuster**, Advocacy Action Network, Louisville; **67 Dwight Butler**, Consultant, Campbellsville; **68 Chad Grant**, Grant Consulting, Lansing, Mich.; **69 Bob Heleringer**, Attorney, Louisville

Source: *The Kentucky Gazette*

CORPORATE MOVES

New leadership for Kentucky businesses

BIG MOVES

■ **Mitchel Denham** has joined DBL Law as a partner in the firm's Louisville office.

■ **Andrew Pellino** has joined DBL Law as a partner in the firm's civil litigation practice group in Louisville.

■ **Mike Quinn** has joined Fortune Realty, a commercial real estate firm in Lexington, as a commercial broker.

BANKING

■ **T. Clay Stinnett** has been named chief financial officer of Louisville-based Stock Yards Bancorp and Stock Yards Bank & Trust Co., effective May 1, 2019. Stinnett will succeed **Nancy B. Davis**, who is retiring from the company on April 30. **Michael B. Newton** has joined the company as senior vice president and principal accounting officer.

CONSTRUCTION

■ **Juva Barber** has been named executive vice president of the Building Industry Association of Greater Louisville.



Juva Barber

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

■ The Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corp. has hired **Brittaney Johnson** as president and chief executive officer.

EDUCATION

■ **Courtney Collins** has been named director of parking and transportation services at Eastern Kentucky University.



Courtney Collins

■ **Tomarra Adams** has been named dean of undergraduate education at Spalding University.

■ **Judith Daar** has been named dean of the Salmon P. Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University.



Judith Daar

FOOD/SPIRITS/HOSPITALITY

■ **Blain Shortreed** has been named chief operating officer for Louisville-based Long John Silver's.



Blain Shortreed

■ **Dave Crowley** has rejoined Lexington-based A&W Restaurants as director of franchise recruitment. Crowley worked with A&W between 1997 and 2010 in various development positions.

■ **Gabe Isaac** has been appointed general manager of the 21c Museum Hotel Lexington.



Gabe Isaac

■ **Barry Kuhnke** has been named general manager of the Lexington Marriott City Center and Residence Inn Lexington City Center.



Barry Kuhnke

GOVERNMENT

■ **Raymond DeBolt** has been named commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice.

■ **Kenneth Churchill Imes** has been named county judge/executive of Calloway County.

HEALTH CARE

■ **Dr. Tom Hustead** has been named medical director of the HMH Medical Group in Elizabethtown.



Tom Hustead

■ **Karen Venis** has been named chief executive officer and executive director of Sayre Christian Village in Lexington.

■ **Dr. Vishal Agrawal** has been named chief strategy and corporate development officer for Louisville-based Humana Inc. Agrawal succeeds **Christopher Hunter**, who has assumed leadership responsibility for the company's group, specialty and military lines of business.

INSURANCE

■ **Chris Lau** has joined Louisville-based DPL Financial Partners as chief distribution officer.

LAWS

■ **Trevor Nichols, Thomas "Neal" Morris, Anne-Tyler Morgan and Peter Rosene** have joined the Lexington office of McBrayer, McGinnis, Leslie & Kirkland.



Peter Rosene



Anne-Tyler Morgan

■ **Michael J. Lacourse** and **Andrew K.N. Williams** have joined Sturgill, Turner, Barker & Moloney PLLC.

MEETINGS/CONVENTIONS

■ Kentucky Venues, which operates the Kentucky Exposition Center and the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, has announced the following promotions: **Linda Edwards** – executive director of business development and marketing; **Kevin McCoy** – executive director of facility planning and management; and **Shawn Hensler** – executive director of public safety and security.



Linda Edwards



Kevin McCoy



Shawn Hensler

PHARMACEUTICAL

■ **Patrick Lee** has been promoted to chief financial officer for Louisville-based PharmaCord LLC.

■ **Adam Townsend** has been named chief commercial officer for Louisville-based Apellis Pharmaceuticals Inc.

RESEARCH

■ Covington-based CTI Clinical Trial and Consulting Services has promoted **Günter Stetter** to vice president, global regulatory affairs study start up.



Günter Stetter

TECHNOLOGY

■ Louisville-based Waystar has announced the following additions to its executive leadership team: **Tad Kendall** – chief sales officer; **Jeff Hurst** – executive vice president of client success team; **Peter J. Siavelis** – senior vice president of health systems and hospitals; and **Tracey Weinberg** – senior vice president of marketing.

OTHER

■ **David Reingold** has joined Louisville-based Malone Workforce Solutions as executive vice president of staffing solutions.

■ **John Duffy** has been named president of RJE Business Interiors' Kentucky business. The Indianapolis-based company has offices in both Louisville and Lexington.

■ **Jonathan Shell** has been named director of state initiatives for Pegasus Institute, a Louisville-based research organization that focuses on state and local policies.

DEPARTURES

■ **Rich Geruson** has resigned as president, CEO and director of Lexington-based Lexmark International Inc.



Rich Geruson

■ **Charlie Powell**, president of Sts. Mary and Elizabeth Hospital in Louisville, has left to accept the position of chief operating officer at 21st Century Oncology in Fort Myers, Fla.

■ **J. Barry Barker** has retired as executive director of the Transit Authority of River City (TARK) in Louisville.



Barry Barker

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To submit information for yourself or someone in your company, please visit lanereport.com/submissions. We accept listings for promotions, new hires, title changes, and association and board appointments.



ON THE BOARDS

Kentuckians named to organizational leadership roles

ASSOCIATION OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND APPLIED ENGINEERING

■ **Lindsay Childs** has been elected to serve as the student member of the board of directors for the Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering, a collegiate accrediting agency and a professional organization with more than 1,000 student and professional members. Childs is pursuing her Master of Science degree in Engineering and Technology Management at Morehead State University.

BLUE GRASS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

■ **Richard Wehrle** has been elected to the board of directors of the Blue Grass Community Foundation, a public charity that supports the quality of life in Central and Appalachia Kentucky through philanthropy and civic engagement. Wehrle is a member of the law firm of Stites & Harbison, based in the Lexington office.



Richard Wehrle

DRI

■ **Stephanie M. Wurdock**, an attorney with Sturgill, Turner, Barker & Moloney PLLC in Lexington, has been appointed second vice chair of the DRI Young Lawyers Committee for 2018-2019. DRI is a leading organization of civil defense attorneys and in-house counsel.



Stephanie Wurdock

GOD'S PANTRY FOOD BANK

■ The following individuals have been elected to serve on the board of directors of God's Pantry Food Bank in Lexington: **Colmon Elridge III**, Kentucky Education Association; **Scott McCauley**, Limestone Bank; and **Paul B. Mulhollem**, Clairebrook Farms.



Colmon Elridge III



Scott McCauley



Paul Mulhollem

GOVERNOR'S SCHOLARS PROGRAM

■ **Thomas T. Noland Jr.** has been appointed to the Governor's Scholars Program board of directors. Noland, of Louisville, is senior vice president of Louisville-based Humana Inc.

GREATER LOUISVILLE INC.

■ Greater Louisville Inc. has announced the following new appointments to its board of directors: **Charles Scholtz**, Brown-Forman; **Kevin Smith**, Beam Suntory; **Aimee Jewel**, University of Louisville; **Karl Schmitt**, Louisville Sports Commission; and **Glenn Sullivan**, Sullivan University System. Scholtz and **Purna Veer**, of V-Soft Consulting, have been named to the nonprofit organization's executive committee.

KEENELAND

■ **Everett Dobson**, **S. Walker Hancock Jr.** and **W. Gray Lyster IV** have been named to Keeneland's advisory board of directors. Dobson is the owner of Candy Meadows Farm near Lexington. Hancock is president of Claiborne Farm, near Paris. Lyster is co-general manager of Ashview Farm, near Versailles.

KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL FINANCE CORP.

■ **Jonathan T. Noe** and **Donna M. Amburgey** have been appointed to the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corp. board of directors. Noe, of Lancaster, is the vice president and chief lending officer for the Central Kentucky Agricultural Credit Association. Amburgey, of Mt. Sterling, is a retired marketing and assistant security officer for Whitaker Bank and the co-owner of Amburgey's Charolais Farm.

KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

■ **Kelli N. Pendleton** and **James T. Iacocca** have been appointed to the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs. Pendleton, of Hopkinsville, is president and CEO of the Christian County Chamber of Commerce. Iacocca, of Fishersville, is president and CEO of the Knox Regional Development Alliance.

KENTUCKY EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION

■ **Taylor Allen Payne** has been appointed to the Kentucky Emergency Response Commission. Payne, of Lexington, is an assistant attorney general for the Commonwealth's Office of the Attorney General.

KENTUCKY FILM COMMISSION

■ **Raymond Carcione** and **Lisa Fath** have been appointed to the Kentucky Film Commission. Carcione, of Louisville, is president and owner of Kentucky Chrome Works LLC. Fath, of Lexington, is a pageant coordinator and real estate agent.

KENTUCKY LEAGUE OF CITIES

■ The Kentucky League of Cities has announced its 2019 board and officers: President – Mayor **Teresa Rochetti-Cantrell**, Mayfield; First Vice President – Mayor **Bill Dieruf**, Jeffersonton; Second Vice President – Mayor **Troy Rudder**, London; KLC Executive Director/CEO – **Jonathan Steiner**; Immediate Past President – Mayor **Jim Barnes**, Richmond. Board: Mayor **Dan Bell**, Taylor Mill; Mayor **Rita Dotson**, Benton; Mayor **Jeff Edwards**, Monticello; Councilmember **Marty Fulkerson**, Elizabethtown; Chief **Guy Howie**, Glasgow; Mayor **Michael Hughes**, Auburn; Commissioner **Pamela Smith-Wright**, Owensboro; Mayor **Les Stapleton**, Prestonsburg; Mayor **Brian Traugott**, Versailles; Mayor **Martin Voiers**, Flemingsburg; Mayor **Bruce Wilkerson**, Bowling Green; City Administrator **Tim Williams**, Crestview Hills; and Mayor **Jan Yonts**, Greenville.

KENTUCKY PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH TRUST FUND BOARD

■ **Dr. John August D'Orazio** and **Heather D. Shaw** have been appointed as members of the Kentucky Pediatric Cancer Research Trust Fund Board. D'Orazio, of Lexington, is a physician-scientist at the University of Kentucky. Shaw, of Lexington, is the

development director at the Child Development Center of the Bluegrass.

KENTUCKY STATE LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND RECORDS COMMISSION

■ **Christi Garner Unger**, **Connie Cobb**, **Shamara Jackson** and **James Ebert** have been appointed to the State Libraries, Archives and Records Commission. Unger, of La Grange, is a librarian for the Kentucky School for the Blind. Cobb, of Georgetown, is a librarian/media specialist for Clark County High School. Jackson, of Lexington, is a records manager with Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government. Ebert, of Richmond, is the police chief for the Richmond Police Department.

LEGAL MARKETING ASSOCIATION

■ **Lauren Parsons** has been selected to serve as director of outreach for the Legal Marketing Association's Southeast region board of directors. Parsons is director of marketing and client relations for the Lexington law firm of Sturgill, Turner, Barker & Moloney PLLC.

LEXARTS

■ LexArts, which serves as the Lexington area's arts council and united arts fund, has selected seven new members to its board of directors: **David Bugg**, Toyota; **John E. Cole III**, African American Forum; **Emily Downey**, Alltech; **Stefania Greene**, Fayette District Court; **Ana Maldonado-Coomer**, Work and Play; **Christa Marrillia**, Keeneland; and **Jeff Murphy**, KentuckyOne Health. Continuing LexArts board members for FY 2019 are: **James Brown**, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council; **Julia Offutt Cauthen**, Julia O. Cauthen Bloodstock; **Brian L. Frye**, University of Kentucky; **Enrique Gonzalez**, artist; **Gina Greathouse**, Commerce Lexington; **Astarré Gudino**, independent consultant; **Catherine Ladd Kenneally**, Cross Gate Gallery; **Donald Mason**, The Lyric Theatre; **Steve Matherly**, Fifth Third Bank; **Marc A. Mathews**, Transylvania University; **Connie Miller**, Group CJ; **Becky Neal Ochenkoski**, tribeca trunk; **Jeremy Paden**, Transylvania University; **Mary Quinn Ramer**, VisitLEX; **Jon Stewart**, Kentucky Employers' Mutual Insurance; and **Frank X. Walker**, poet, professor and playwright.

LIMESTONE BANCORP INC.

■ **Celia Catlett** has been appointed to the board of directors for Limestone Bancorp and Limestone Bank. Catlett, of Louisville, serves as general counsel and is a member of the executive team at Louisville-based Texas Roadhouse Inc.



Celia Catlett

MEDICAL ASSISTING EDUCATION REVIEW BOARD

■ **Jill Ferrari** has been appointed to the Medical Assisting Education Review Board. Ferrari is program director of Sullivan University's medical assistant program at the school's Lexington campus.

Kentucky Expecting Ongoing Growth in 2019



Strong bourbon, vehicle production, logistics sectors should offset agribusiness weakness, keep most state businesses expanding

BY MARK GREEN

KENTUCKY business leaders see a year of continued economic expansion. The urban centers are where the most activity is, with big construction and development projects driving dollars into the financial arteries. Logistics and related operations are surging at and near the Northern Kentucky and Louisville international airports. Kentucky's significant vehicle manufacturing sector expects stable business despite slight overall sales decreases as the sector eases back after several successive record years. Bourbon making and bourbon tourism continue

their upswing and continue to attract hotel projects. Agribusiness had a bumpy 2018 with trade trouble on top of still weak commodity prices, but is encouraged by the new federal farm bill; if trade policy becomes predictable again, Kentucky communities that rely on agribusiness will be even more encouraged. The urban areas and the state in general are working to retool education and training to be more in sync with the skills needed by advanced manufacturing in particular, whose jobs pay well and can achieve momentum if Kentucky can grow and attract enough skilled workers.



Matthew Bevin
Governor,
Commonwealth
of Kentucky

"In just three years, Kentucky has moved to the forefront of national influence, steadily gaining recognition as America's center for engineering and manufacturing excellence. The commonwealth's transformational pro-business policies, legislation and programs are yielding truly historic results – more than \$17.3 billion in private investment, nearly 48,000 new jobs created and the highest workforce participation in state history. There is still much work to be accomplished, however, as we enter 2019. We must continue our progress on meaningful tax, tort and pension reform, and address vital infrastructure needs. Kentucky is on an exciting upward trajectory toward becoming the greatest possible version of itself, as we build a strong foundation for future economic growth and prosperity. As we seize the opportunities that good government fosters, I'm confident our unprecedented momentum will continue. Kentucky is becoming a marquee national and global destination, proud to show the world what it means to say ... We are Kentucky!"



Susan Elkington
President,
Toyota Motor
Manufacturing
Kentucky Inc.

"Despite economic challenges from tariffs and trade, higher interest rates and cyclical downturns, our economic optimism continues to be fueled by consumer confidence, low unemployment rates and fuel prices. Over the next three years, Toyota will introduce 31 new, redesigned or refreshed models in the Toyota and Lexus lineup. We anticipate total North America industry sales to be relatively stable over the next three years with cyclical, yet modest decreases. Toyota typically picks up market share during these cycles. Despite a consumer shift to more trucks and SUVs, Toyota remains committed to the sedan market led by our ever-popular Toyota Camry. It's exciting to be part of the mobility industry and part of the amazing Toyota team in Kentucky."



Dave Adkisson
President/CEO,
Kentucky
Chamber of
Commerce

"We hope 2019 will be a year of continuing economic expansion and the year our nation's trade relationships settle into a more predictable and sustainable pattern. On the home front, we want to make additional gains in the 2019 General Assembly toward improving the business climate of

Kentucky and investing in our state's infrastructure. Workforce issues will continue to top the business community's list of serious concerns, and we'll be making major efforts to engage employers in creating 'talent pipelines' as a solution."



Eric Frankl
Executive
Director,
Blue Grass
Airport

"A strong U.S. economy in 2018 was beneficial for air travel throughout the country. Blue Grass Airport continues to experience passenger growth, with the addition of nonstop service to Destin, Fla., last year and Washington Dulles service that begins in February 2019. The new Dulles service and the growth of United in the Lexington

market will provide expanded hub options to the Northeast and international destinations for the local traveler. In 2019, work also begins on enhanced food and beverage offerings that will provide passengers with new choices as well as great grab-and-go options."



Steve Stevens
Chief Executive
Officer,
Kentucky
Realtors®

"Kentucky's real estate market has typically followed the national trend in recent years, posting year-over-year record-setting sales volume and units sold. National home sales in 2018 slowed and are predicted to decrease approximately 3 percent in 2019. Kentucky, however, has shown stronger numbers and is

on track to match or exceed its record in 2018. Inventory shortages continue to drive up home values at a pace that exceeds the rest of the country, which may eventually create affordability problems for first-time buyers. With the economy still strong, we hope the Fed will be less aggressive in raising rates, which can drive a vibrant construction market that will begin to match our strong demand. Kentucky should see continued commercial and residential real estate growth in 2019."



Ryan Quarles
Commissioner
of Agriculture,
Commonwealth
of Kentucky

"We enter 2019 off a year that, make no mistake, was difficult for Kentucky and American agriculture in every way. A federal farm bill was passed in December and the new year shows promise that our trade relationships overseas will stabilize, giving Kentucky farmers and agribusinesses the certainty they need to plan

for success. As second vice president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, I am represent our Kentucky farm families in Frankfort and Washington. The Department of Agriculture's Hunger Initiative has helped Kentucky's food banks secure and store more foods for the food-insecure population, and we look forward to more success stories in 2019."



Erik Dunnigan
Managing
Director,
Coastal Cloud

"In 2019, focus on the consumer experience, already prevalent in sales and services, will increase in every industry. Economic conditions and an accelerated change of market will favor companies equipped to operate quickly, adjusting resources and strategy in real-time. This level of

engagement requires digital transformation leveraging cloud-based platform solutions. These platforms are now easier to adopt and are replacing the need for multiple systems for marketing, sales, accounting, billing, operations and service."



G. Michael Murphy
CEO, Murphy
Construction
Group

"2018 was a banner year for Murphy Construction Group. Revenues increased more than 30 percent, with 2019 looking like an even better year – backlogs are up 40 percent from last year. Our success remains in the manufacturing and the medical sectors of new and expanding business,

but commercial construction is also strong in the 80-mile radius of our workforce's residences. We see a promising immediate future in our highway-structures division with the beginning of the Kentucky Bridge Replacement Program, which intends to rebuild over 400 bridges. Slight interest-rate increases and the related or nonrelated increase in material cost from tariffs have not caused clients to refrain from growing but rather

encourages them to proceed with projects before further price increases. That may change, but for now it's full steam ahead."



Steve Sigg
CEO, SIS

"I'm optimistic about 2019's economic outlook. SIS continues to see digital transformation gain momentum with our clients, regionally, nationally and internationally. Cloud adoption and emerging

technologies are enabling organizations to reinvent themselves and provide exceptional value to customers. These investments in technologies, processes and people allow startups and traditional businesses to compete on a more even playing field and adapt quickly to changes in the market. 2019 will see a continued focus on the customer providing opportunities for growth and expansion at SIS and the Lexington business community as a whole."



Jack Moreland
President,
Southbank
Partners

"Economies are tough to predict. While there appears to be some slowing of the national economy, those of us in Northern Kentucky's Southbank cities along the Ohio River are optimistic about 2019. Corporex Cos. is pumping \$70 million into the mixed-use Ovation site at the confluence of the Ohio

and Licking rivers in Newport, jump-starting a project that could ultimately reach \$1 billion in investment. The newly opened KY 9 corridor connects I-275 and Northern Kentucky's suburbs with downtown Newport, opening new opportunities for industrial, residential and commercial development. Across the Licking River in Covington, the city has hired Cooper Carry, an Atlanta-based global architecture and design firm, to create a development strategy for the 23-acre IRS site in the city's urban core; the IRS is closing the processing facility in the fall."



Mark Lyons
President/
CEO, Alltech

"Moving back to Kentucky from China this year, I was struck by opportunities the Bluegrass has if we can overcome a few challenges. We have a young, educated and enthusiastic workforce. We are listed often as a great place to live, but we have to get people in the door. To achieve that, we need to collaborate

COVER STORY

more to showcase what is special and tackle the issues we face. One challenge that surprised me upon returning was the significance of the opioid crisis, and it will take all our combined efforts to rid our communities of this problem. Together we can ensure Kentucky achieves its full potential, and I am delighted and humbled to be in a position to play a role in that effort.”



Mike Kmetz
Director,
Jeffersontown
Economic
Development
Authority

and Statewide Mortgage. All three of these businesses took advantage of our innovative JOBS Program. Business decision makers tell us they see the value of locating in Jeffersontown, where our business parks are close to restaurants, shops and quality housing across the price spectrum.”



Spencer Bruce
President/CEO,
Louisville Water
Co.

Louisville Water is focused on highlighting the value of water and our business advantage with unique branding at popular tourism and business destinations. From bourbon distilleries to the renovated convention center and Louisville’s airport, we’re connecting our “liquid assets” as a driver for economic development.”



John Roush
President,
Centre College

staying focused on what it is they do best,

while being open to new and fresh ideas that inspire confidence, build their brand, and strengthen their high quality. Third, if you find yourself discouraged at a high level – regardless of your political persuasion – take heart, go back and read some history, and don’t get overly confident or disheartened. Balance in all things will win the day.”



Karen Finan
President/CEO,
Northern
Kentucky
Regional
Alliance;
Interim
President/CEO,
Northern
Kentucky
Tri-ED

talent pipeline; an educational system that provides a skillset matched to workforce and career needs; and a healthy community are key to success in 2019. We anticipate the arrival, growth and impact of Amazon Prime over the next several years and view this as an opportunity for our existing business base. We welcome all that 2019 brings, in concert with infrastructure improvements and regional unity.”



Nick Rowe
President,
Kentucky
American
Water

aging water mains to maintain quality water and/or wastewater services to rural and urban customers in portions of 14 counties. Ongoing system renewal is critical for providing customers reliable, quality service, and we’ve invested more than \$400 million in the last decade. We also will remain focused on controlling operational expenses, providing a fair return to investors, and growing our footprint in the commonwealth to bring services to additional communities.”



Karen Williams
President/CEO,
Louisville
Tourism

“Louisville’s tourism economy saw significant advancement in 2018 and is poised for growth in 2019. U.S. Travel (Association) is predicting increases of over 2 percent nationally in domestic travel and over 3 percent in business travel. With an expanded downtown convention center, 2,000 hotel rooms recently opened and 1,500 more in the pipeline, Louisville is continually improving our product. More strategic partnerships in the public and private sector from the airport to headquarters businesses will help meetings achieve their attendance goals. Leisure growth is being fueled by our ever-expanding bourbon tourism offerings and culinary-fueled growth is anticipated with the “Top Chef” effect as Kentucky is showcased on national television.”



Anthony “Tony” Campbell
President/CEO,
East Kentucky
Power
Cooperative

“Affordable, reliable energy is as important as ever to the 1.1 million Kentucky residents served by our co-ops, and especially businesses competing in the global marketplace. Kentucky’s central location for accessing coal and natural gas keeps costs low. While the new administration has set a refreshing tone for regulations, compliance with federal rules continues to be costly. Over the next five years, EKPC will spend over \$250 million on compliance at just one power plant. EKPC works with our 16 owner-member cooperatives to draw jobs and investment to the communities we serve, a job that is made considerably easier by state legislative adjustments such as right-to-work. Through November, our co-ops have assisted with new or expanding business projects totaling \$2.59 billion in investment and 2,698 direct jobs.”



Ashish Vaidya
President,
Northern
Kentucky
University

“Pension reform will determine the economic outlook for Kentucky’s higher education institutions in 2019. Without it, regional comprehensive universities face catastrophic consequences. Last year, NKU was fortunate to get a reprieve from an anticipated \$13 million increase in our pension contribution, but it is only for one year. In a proactive manner, the impacted

universities came together to create a pension-reform proposal for legislators to consider during the 2019 General Assembly. We created a consensus proposal built on shared responsibility that allows each employee to make a decision based on what's best for them. There are no mandates and no fluctuating contributions for universities. With true pension reform like this, Kentucky higher education has a bright outlook with the ability to invest in and grow the student population for economic development and social mobility."



Candace S. McGraw
CEO,
Cincinnati/
Northern
Kentucky
International
Airport

"Aviation is big business for Kentucky, and business is booming! A report published by Airports Council International-North America, utilizing 2017 statistics, notes commercial-service airports in Kentucky have a total economic impact of \$13.3 billion and 104,000 direct employees for our state. Passenger growth is estimated to continue at a rate consistent with the national average in 2019. In addition to passenger service, Kentucky is the premier cargo venue for North America – serving as home to DHL's second largest operation in the world, the soon-to-be-constructed Amazon Prime Air hub, and UPS Worldport. Kentucky plays a key role in e-commerce, both domestically and internationally, with growth anticipated to increase in 2019. We look forward to blue skies ahead."



Dave Tatman
Executive
Director,
Kentucky
Automotive
Industry
Association

"As opposed to last year's optimistic outlook for 2018, we see a very different picture for Kentucky's automotive industry in 2019. Our industry, like many others, is facing some significant headwinds in the domestic and global economy that create significant uncertainty. Chief among these challenges are the steel and aluminum tariffs announced in 2018, as well as the Commerce Department investigation of possible automotive tariffs. Nevertheless, sales of cars and light trucks, particularly SUVs and crossovers, remain strong, albeit slightly softer than levels a year ago. Lower fuel prices and the new tax laws have sustained our positive numbers, but it is possible global economic uncertainties could soon affect consumer purchase decisions."



Darren Srebnick
Chief Trade
Officer, World
Trade Center
Kentucky

"We have never experienced a year like 2018 in terms of tariffs, re-negotiation and trade policy upheaval. Our global economy remains on course to grow at 3.7 percent in 2018, the same as in 2017. Kentucky historically trends lower than the national economy, but it shines on the international front, ranking

fifth in exports per capita. While a truce between the U.S. and China during the G20 Conference in December alleviated fears of additional tariffs, it does not remove tariffs already applied. Tariffs on \$250 billion of Chinese goods targeted by the U.S. since July are still in place, as are duties China imposed on \$110 billion of U.S. goods. We are concerned about the amount of affected intermediate goods that modern supply chains depend upon for competitiveness. The first half of 2019 looks promising, but we see a slight



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Dr. Ken Blanchard and
member of Simon Sinek's
global team, CEO and
author **Kristen Hadeed**



COVER STORY

downturn in the second half of 2019. We urge Kentucky manufacturers to dig into their supply chains and look for cost-savings opportunities to weather this storm.”



Mike Benson
President,
Eastern
Kentucky
University

“We anticipate slower economic growth in outlays at the federal and state level, which will continue to put pressure on higher-education budgets. Interest rates and our broader economy do have an impact and influence on the decision students – our consumers – make in pursuing higher education. The focus coming out of Frankfort leans toward work-ready careers versus preparing our citizenry to compete and invent the economy after 2019. We believe in a both/and strategy for Kentucky versus an either/or strategy, and we look forward to working with our General Assembly and the governor on strengthening our economy for all Kentuckians.”



Dr. Eli Capilouto
President,
University
of Kentucky

“The University of Kentucky is the essential engine of a robust and modern Kentucky economy. Our teaching enterprise provides the in-demand skilled workforce for the commonwealth’s economy and culture. Through our high-tech research enterprise and commercialization efforts, we are at the forefront of innovation in health care, drug development, energy, agriculture and confronting an insidious opioid crisis. Understanding the important role private philanthropy will play in our success, UK recently launched a \$2.1 billion comprehensive capital campaign to embolden our efforts in teaching, research, service and health care. If Kentucky wants a dynamic economy, partnering with the public and private sectors will be critical for our success. Together, we will show the world what Kentucky can do.”



L. Briggs Cochran
President/CEO,
Bim Group

“The economic currency in employee benefit consulting is the demand for employees. Across all the broad industry market segments Bim Group serves, the demand for great employees is palpable. Employers who are successfully meeting this demand are

strategically rethinking and positioning their total compensation package to attract and retain great employees. We anticipate the demand for qualified employees in 2018 to intensify in 2019, indicating a strong vibrant economy in the commonwealth.”



Brent Cooper
President/CEO,
Northern
Kentucky
Chamber of
Commerce

“We expect the economic success we saw this year to continue in 2019. Fueled by the tremendous growth in both domestic and cargo traffic at our international airport (CVG), manufacturing and logistics are leading the way and continue to expand, followed closely by growth in the health care, IT, finance and construction sectors. Given the projections for expansion, we believe growing, attracting and retaining talent is the top priority. That is why you’ll hear us talking about what a great place Northern Kentucky is to live, work and play as part of our regional marketing strategy.”



Jared Arnett
Executive
Director,
Shaping Our
Appalachian
Region

“When collaboration and innovation collide: The result is true and lasting transformation. Appalachia Kentucky stands on the right side of the digital divide, and we are leveraging technology like never before to disrupt poverty and bring new opportunities across our region. From industrial recruitment, advanced manufacturing, technology, remote work, small businesses and beyond, the people of Appalachia Kentucky stand ready, able and willing to put their ingenuity to use to make Kentucky a global leader in innovation and to create the 21st-century Appalachia we envision.”



Mark Hill
Vice President/
Lexington
Region Leader,
Messer
Construction
Co.

“The construction industry was very busy in 2018, with signature projects that will carry forward into 2019 and beyond. Higher education, industrial and hotel/convention-space work continues to be strong, with a special interest on the booming spirits industry. In Lexington, we anticipate fewer large projects coming to market in 2019. Many local subcontractors are already extremely busy performing work for

projects that kicked off in the last year, and resource availability will continue to be a challenge. Messer is recruiting and retaining project management and skilled trades talent; we work with Kentucky colleges and universities with full-time and co-op/intern needs, as well as workforce development agencies.”



Jesika Young
President,
National
Association
of Women
Business
Owners
Kentucky

“NAWBO Kentucky is advancing women in business throughout the Bluegrass. We have a lot of momentum that will continue to propel women into leadership positions. Women-owned firms are the fastest-growing economic segment in the U.S., while a mere 30 years ago a woman needed a male co-signer to obtain a business loan. In 2018, NAWBO celebrated the 30th anniversary of the passing of HR: 5050, a legislative piece that NAWBO National led. We will continue to advocate for small-business owners as well as women in business everywhere.”



Stephen Gray
President/CEO,
Gray
Construction

“2018 has proven strong for the industrial sector. Tax and regulatory reform helped pave the way for growth and investment in U.S. manufacturing. From Gray Construction’s world of engineering, architecture and construction, these positive moves from 2018 have set the stage for an equally strong 2019. We expect particular growth in the food and beverage sector with automation solutions serving as a differentiator for food safety and efficiency. The anticipation of infrastructure action could have a positive impact on local, national and global economies. The biggest challenge we’re expecting is the availability of labor for the construction industry as well as the manufacturing/industrial sector. While many economists are predicting a softening in 2019, our outlook is positive through 2020.”



Bob Quick
President/CEO,
Commerce
Lexington Inc.

“Central Kentucky’s economy remained strong in 2018, and with low unemployment, an educated workforce and a diverse economy, this should continue into 2019. However, local business leaders are concerned about several issues, including Kentucky’s

pension crisis and opioid epidemic, global trade talks, a lack of land for development in Fayette County, and a few significant downsizings and closures – all with long-term implications for Lexington. Despite our low unemployment rate, many employers still need workers to fill open positions, but the region is fortunate to have nearly 17,000 college graduates annually entering the workforce. With several key ongoing development projects in the heart of downtown, strong capital investment by new and existing companies, and a booming entrepreneurial ecosystem, Lexington continues to attract national attention as a top city in economic and quality of life categories.”



Madison Silvert
President,
Malcolm
Bryant Corp.

“We see a slowdown in the commercial office sector that we believe could continue through much of next year. This has to do with uncertainty in the market and an increase in rates that is affecting the start of new businesses. The hospitality sector, however, remains strong, driven by the trend of millennials valuing experiences over “stuff” and baby boomers enjoying

retirement. Expect to see even more diversification of hospitality offerings through newly developed brands. Beyond industry trends, recent natural disasters and tariffs are both affecting pricing and the ability of new projects to be profitable. We expect new construction to slow until prices stabilize.”



Greg Fischer
Mayor,
Louisville
Metro

“Louisville’s economic renaissance is in full swing. The past eight years added 80,000 jobs and 2,700 businesses. We’ve announced \$13 billion in capital investment the last four years – nearly \$1 billion in historically under-resourced neighborhoods west of Ninth Street. Our built environment continues to experience tremendous momentum, with plans for a \$200 million Louisville City FC soccer stadium district and Louisville Urban League’s \$35 million learning and sports facility. The skyline is changing with hotel projects, including the \$300 million Omni Hotel, two urban bourbon experiences, and the completed \$207 million Kentucky International Convention Center renovation. Training programs like Code

Louisville and The Software Guild will rapidly scale our tech-based economy. Our leadership in the aging and health tech sector is writing the next chapter on caring for the nation’s aging population. Our 2019 focus is to even more rapidly scale our tech workforce, build on our prosperity and ensure our momentum is shared by every citizen in every neighborhood.”



Linda Gorton
Mayor,
Lexington

“Lexington’s healthy economy is expected to grow in 2019, offering unparalleled opportunity for our citizens. Our city is poised to become one of the largest gigabit cities in the country this year, bringing in more good, high-tech jobs. As we prepare for this leap into tomorrow’s economy, we must put people first, with targeted job training and education opportunities that meet local business needs and ensure everyone is prepared to benefit. In addition, properties now dedicated to economic development, including 50 acres that are shovel-ready in Coldstream Research Campus and 200 acres fronting on I-75, are a once-in-a-

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COVER STORY

lifetime opportunity for job growth, especially in advanced manufacturing.”



Dr. Andrew Henderson
CEO,
Lexington
Clinic

“2019 will be a year of growth and expansion for Lexington Clinic. In 2018, we added several providers and physicians and look forward to adding more team members in 2019 to meet the demand of our growing patient base. Lexington Clinic will continue offering customized, premier network options for progressive employers through population health and premier provider agreements. Lexington Clinic will begin construction in 2019 on a new building for our South Broadway campus to allow us to expand our offerings to the people of Central Kentucky. The building will be up and functional by our 100th birthday in 2020.”



Dan Mann
Executive
Director,
Louisville
Regional
Airport
Authority

“In 2018, Louisville International Airport increased capacity, its number of enplanements and added 10 new service markets. We witnessed a dramatic increase in ultralow-cost leisure service by Allegiant and Frontier. Los Angeles (LAX) service begins in April, adding to the current record 33 nonstop destinations from Louisville. The 2019 schedule is showing strength and trending up with a 10 percent capacity increase over last year. Area travelers can expect more options to more cities with great fares. As the world’s seventh busiest cargo airport, SDF will continue to play a significant role in national and global economic activity. The future for air cargo and logistics in the region is bright.”



Bruce Tassin
Market CEO,
President,
Saint Joseph
Hospital

“This is an exciting time for our organization, as we recently launched a three-year strategic plan, titled RENEW. The Saint Joseph and Flaget facilities in Central and Eastern Kentucky are focused on improving convenience for our patients, physicians and customers, through expansion of locations/services, and a high-performing access center. A recent example is the opening of our Express Care location in the Palomar Centre in Lexington. The initiatives from RENEW have already resulted in improved

performance across our system, with a commitment to the community and the legacy of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth. We will continue this commitment and our expansion into 2019 and beyond.”



Dr. Jay Box
President,
Kentucky
Community
and Technical
College System

“Kentucky job growth will continue in its top five sectors of advanced manufacturing; health care; transportation/logistics; business services/IT; and construction/trades. This will continue to push secondary and postsecondary education to align programing in these areas to better prepare skilled workers to meet the needs of business and industry. Last year 75 percent of the credentials we awarded were in these five sectors. Additionally, we will see more experiential learning that provides students with hands-on experience, such as apprenticeships. Higher education will embrace innovative ways to deliver its programs to get students trained and into the workplace as quick as possible.”



Paul W. Thompson
Chairman/
CEO/President,
LG&E and KU

“Louisville Gas & Electric Co. and Kentucky Utilities Co. are committed to advancing technologies and meeting customers’ needs. We work with state and local economic development personnel to attracting new and expanding businesses to Kentucky. Our economic development rate, coupled with our sustainable offerings, incentivize business growth and development. We help businesses install solar at their facilities, offer a subscription-based Solar Share Program, and provide new publicly accessible and customer-hosted electric vehicle charging stations on Kentucky roadways. LG&E and KU have been named nine times as one of the top 10 utilities in the country for economic development by Site Selection magazine. These types of programs, along with our continued low rates, will keep advancing Kentucky’s economy.”



Bruce Broussard
President/CEO,
Humana

“We are at a pivot point of greatly improving health care. More people are being treated under reimbursement models – like Medicare Advantage – that incent complete health, not just the delivery of care. Digital technologies such as

home-based monitoring devices and personalized science are increasing the opportunity to leverage the growing sophistication of analytics, artificial intelligence, natural language processing, and machine learning. Electronic medical records are increasing the velocity and volume of information and allowing for more complete and timely decisions. More companies will access data to create consumer-engaged business models that encourage competition, foster innovation and force our industry to evolve. But technology will only take this so far. It’s up to physician and clinician offices, health plans and government to help consumers have a real-time, detailed understanding of their health.”



Adam D. Kempf
SVP/CFO,
Norton
Healthcare

“In the health-care industry, change is constant. After a federal judge ruled the Affordable Care Act unconstitutional, we expect additional activity around Medicaid expansion as appeals are made. This leaves health care providers working within very tight budgets. Hospitals and health care organizations will continue looking at ways to provide access to care as patients demand options in a consumer-based model – something that is already a focus for Norton Healthcare. With initiatives such as video visits, same-day appointments, and expanded hours and call-ahead waiting for our immediate care centers, we are responding to the increased demand for services and access.”



Mary Quinn Ramer
President,
VisitLEX

“Lexington’s hospitality industry continues to grow! In 2018, new hotels opened, two historic bourbon distilleries started welcoming visitors and travelers flocked to area restaurants and bars. Lexington’s 2018 October hotel occupancy reached an all-time high 75.5 percent, up 2.8 percentage points over October 2017, and several points above national levels. VisitLEX opened new headquarters in the restored Old Fayette Courthouse. In 2019, City Center in downtown will open in addition to a boutique property at The Summit. Bourbon and culinary tourism are booming, and we anticipate continued demand for our culinary offerings as “Top Chef” Season 16 airs on Bravo TV. Construction of the Lexington Center expansion project is underway, as well as planning for Breeders’ Cup 2020. ■

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Quick Study

New faces in Frankfort face a daunting short session

BY BOB AND JULIE BABBAGE

THE faces of Frankfort are ever-changing, and in the 2019 General Assembly, every third member of the House is new. Across leadership posts there are numerous new faces. Lining up for the seminal election for state office are familiar faces seeking new positions.

The political lines are laced with pension aftershock.

Some two years ago, Gov. **Matt Bevin** led various business and political leaders on the call for pension reform, given the enormous accumulated obligation that is owed to employees but not funded.



Gov. Matt Bevin

After the landmark pension vote on SB151 during the 2018 session went down 7-0 on a Supreme Court ruling (based on the way the bill was passed), the legislature went back to work under heavy circumstances. The December special session lasted right at 24 hours with no outcome achieved.

Lines are drawn on this for the foreseeable future amid battle fatigue, lingering high emotions and continuing high stakes.

With over two decades in the chamber, Senate President **Robert Stivers**, R-Manchester, will shape the course of action starting Jan. 8. His GOP supermajority grew following the election.



Robert Stivers

Similarly, the House Republicans hold a 60-39 seat edge, and have chosen Rep. **David Osborne**, R-Prospect, to move from acting speaker to the real job.



David Osborne

Some 13 women join the legislature, a record number. For the first time ever, three women are in leadership simultaneously.

The Senate GOP caucus chair is Sen. **Julie Raque Adams**, R-Louisville, while Rep. **Suzanne Miles**, R-Owensboro, chairs the House majority caucus. Rep **Joni Jenkins**, D-Louisville, is the House minority whip.



Julie Raque Adams



Suzanne Miles



Joni Jenkins

When the Senate gavels in it will be Sen. **Damon Thayer**, R-Georgetown, managing the floor. Rep. **John “Bam” Carney**, R-Campbellsville, will move into the floor leader role in the House, having served as education chair in recent years.



Damon Thayer



Bam Carney



David Givens



David Meade

Now backing up Stivers is Sen. **David Givens**, R-Greensburg, as president pro tem. The speaker pro tem is Rep. **David Meade**, R-Stanford, another move up for the young lawmaker.

Senate Democrats have a new leader in Sen. **Morgan McGarvey**, D-Louisville. The caucus stands at 10, pending the special election to replace outgoing Sen. **Ray Jones**, who will be judge/executive of Pike County.



Morgan McGarvey



Ray Jones

Well-known figures are in the race for governor, with Bevin

seeking a second term. Attorney General **Andy Beshear**, D-Louisville, is out on the hustings, while the minority leader of the House, veteran Rep. **Rocky Adkins**, D-Sandy Hook, is also actively campaigning.



Andy Beshear

The consensus is that **Adam Edelen**, D-Lexington, will join the race in mid-January. His running mate is set to be **Gil Holland**, a Louisville urban neighborhood developer. Secretary of State **Allison Grimes** is termed out, but her plans have not been announced.



Rocky Adkins



Adam Edelen



Gil Holland



Allison Grimes

Financial plans are always under scrutiny and revision, with tax reform a permanent issue. Speaker Osborne is already proposing the elimination of the 6 percent sales tax on charitable events, stemming from a state court case; the tax just started last July.

The Senate budget chair, Sen. **Christian McDaniel**, R-Taylor Mill, is continuously weighing impacts and options.



Christian McDaniel

In a short session it takes a supermajority to pass a fiscal measure. Budget bills must originate in the House, where Rep. **Steven Rudy**, R-Paducah, studies the numbers and needs.



Steven Rudy

Heading the pension oversight board, a key panel tracking all aspects of pension funds, is Rep. **Jim DuPlessis**, R-Elizabethtown.



Jim DuPlessis

Health care drives the budget upward. Both health committees have new chairs, each coming from a professional health background, and each with detailed knowledge of Medicaid, the expanded and complex federal program.

Sen. **Ralph Alvarado**, M.D., R-Winchester, heads the health panel



Ralph Alvarado

with a lengthy agenda. The House chair is Rep. **Kim Moser**, R-Taylor Mill, who inherits a full plate of considerations.



Kim Moser



Daniel Elliott



Danny Bentley

Rep. **Daniel Elliott**, R-Danville, chairs Medicaid oversight. Rep. **Danny Bentley**, R-Russell, plays a role as the budget lead on health.

Education always looms large. Rep. **Regina Huff**, R-Williamsburg, is new to the chairing role. Sen. **Max Wise**, R-Campbellsville, returns as Senate chair, having invested numerous days leading the school safety working group. Expect key proposals on how to make schools safer.

The budget leaders on education are Rep. **James Tipton**, R-Taylorsville, and Rep. **Steve Riley**, R-Glasgow.



James Tipton



Steve Riley



Whitney Westerfield

Leading the Senate judiciary committee is Sen. **Whitney Westerfield**, R-Hopkinsville. Issues like sports betting come before this subset. Additionally, Westerfield is the lone candidate for attorney general at the moment, an open seat.

His neighbor the next county over, Rep. **Jason Petrie**, R-Elkton, is the new House chair for judiciary.

The governor is one of many to call for modernization of how the state funds roads and transportation. It's based now on gasoline consumption. Fuel efficiency coupled with trends such as cycling to work and increased use of electric cars have changed the model. Needs grow while funding stagnates.

Sen. **Ernie Harris**, R-Prospect, is the long-time chair of Senate transportation and



Jason Petrie



Ernie Harris



House Minority Floor Leader Rocky Adkins, D-Sandy Hook (left), speaks with then-House Speaker Pro Tem David Osborne, R-Prospect, at the Speaker's desk in a recess of the House during the December Special Session.

a voice for changing the gas tax. The House chair is **Ken Upchurch**, R-Monticello. Rep. **Sal Santoro**, R-Boone County, figures in as the budget committee lead for transportation.

Energy issues always come to the forefront, especially involving coal policy. Natural resources is headed by Rep. **Jim Gooch**, R-Providence, with Sen. **Brandon Smith**, R-Hazard, assuming the Senate role.



Ken Upchurch



Sal Santoro



Jim Gooch



Brandon Smith



Danny Carroll

Jobs growth and workforce readiness are constant concerns. Sen. **Danny Carroll**, R-Paducah, is the new Senate chair paired with Rep. **Russell Webber**, R-Shepherdsville.



Russell Webber

Small business and tech has Rep. **Diane St. Onge**, R-Lakeside Park, continuing at the helm.



Diane St. Onge



Bart Rowland



Jared Carpenter

With many bankers and insurance agents in the state, the banking and insurance committee gets stacked up with issues, key decisions like what benefits are covered. Rep. **Bart Rowland**, R-Tompkinsville, chairs the House side. The Senate chair is Sen. **Jared Carpenter**, R-Berea.

The field of candidates for constitutional statewide office races looks sparse at the moment. Westerfield joins **Allison Ball**, the state treasurer, and **Mike Harmon**, the state auditor, in the envied position of being unopposed – for now. Insiders expect these races to draw competition.

Agriculture Commissioner **Ryan Quarles** is seeking a second term. Secretary of state has several GOP contenders, but no Democrat.

For those pondering a run, the deadline is Jan. 29. Tradition dictates the closing of the main door by the secretary of state at exactly 4 o'clock. This then opens the campaign season in full force against an intense short session that ends March 29. The primary election is May 21.

On the heels of a challenging special session; a short session with lingering difficult decisions; plus governor and statewide races looming in November; 2019 is shaping up to be a significant year for Kentucky. ■



Allison Ball



Mike Harmon



Ryan Quarles



Bob Babbage and Julie Babbage are with the Babbage Cofounder government relations firm.

Medical MVP Looks Like a Winner



Researcher-clinician teams at UK
get new treatments to patients faster

BY LORIE HAILEY

UNIVERSITY of Kentucky patients are getting quick access to cutting-edge medical treatment ideas and health outcomes in the commonwealth are improving through a two-year-old pilot program that is leading to external funding for full research trials.

The Multidisciplinary Value Program (MVP) brings together UK medical researchers, scientists of different disciplines and expert clinical physicians to offer new trials or therapies in clinical settings. Dr. Robert DiPaola, dean of the UK College of Medicine, said the goal is simple: get new science to patients sooner.

"If there's a discovery in a laboratory, it could take 10 years (under traditional



Dr. Robert DiPaola, Dean, University of Kentucky College of Medicine

processes) before it actually gets into the clinic," he said. "This (the MVP) was constructed to increase the speed by which we have an impact for the discoveries that are made at the University of Kentucky."

Shortly after beginning his tenure as dean of the College of Medicine in March 2016, DiPaola developed and launched the MVP in conjunction with Lisa Cassis, UK's senior vice president of research, and UK's Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS). It built on the university's existing translational research capacity by bridging areas of strength across disciplines and clinical specialties.

They set aside an initial \$100,000 pool for MVP grants and invited researchers and clinicians to submit proposals. More than 30 teams applied. Priority for grants was given to teams including at least one member with strongly funded research, a physician

UK neurologist Dr. Justin Fraser, shown here demonstrating a medical procedure, teamed with Dr. Gregory Bix, director of the UK Center for Advanced Translational Stroke Science, to research new treatments to protect brain tissue after a stroke. Their clinical trial, called MAVARIC (Magnesium and Verapamil After Recanalization in Ischemia of the Cerebrum), was awarded funding from the Multidisciplinary Value Program at UK.

investigator, and projects relevant to the health challenges and disparities faced by Kentucky. To be eligible for a grant, a team was required to have a project ready to quickly "make an impact," DiPaola said.

The award process was facilitated by the pilot funding infrastructure of CCTS, which seeks to accelerate the pace of discoveries for human health and specifically the health challenges of Kentucky and Appalachia. Eight of the 13 U.S. counties where life expectancy is declining are in Appalachian Kentucky.

"There are many health challenges that dominate the landscape of Kentucky, including cancer, heart disease, stroke, diabetes and substance abuse," said Dr. Philip A. Kern, director of the CCTS. "The best efforts to address these pressing problems will not come from the lone researcher in his lab, but from a collaborative team where each member builds on each other's special expertise."

"The MVP program accomplishes this," Kern said, "by building teams that include physicians, basic scientists and other health professionals with a goal of exploring new ideas, soundly rooted in science, that have a high likelihood of becoming the therapies of the future."

Nine teams were awarded funding to conduct trials and get new therapies or protocol out of the lab and into the clinic. Eight of those teams have gone on to conduct trials. So far, the teams have been awarded 12 additional external grants to continue their work. Those external grants "were about fourfold the amount that we invested," DiPaola said. "That's exceptional."

MVP research teams are tackling tough health-care issues such as addiction treatment, stroke, sepsis, ALS (formerly called Lou Gehrig's disease), colon cancer, acute lung injury and other challenges.

A chance to save lives and billions of dollars
For UK internist and faculty member Dr. Laura Fanucchi, the Multidisciplinary Value Program was a

chance to explore better treatment options for patients who suffer from opioid-use disorder (OUD) and a resulting bacterial infection called infective endocarditis (IE).

Increased rates of injection drug use have led to a rise in incidences of IE, which enters the bloodstream and clusters on heart valves. Without treatment, it can be fatal. The infection requires prolonged antibiotic treatment administered through a peripherally inserted central catheter (a PICC line) in a vein returning blood straight to the heart.

IE sufferers who are not opioid-addicted are able to receive prolonged antibiotic therapy at home and on an outpatient basis after becoming stable. But patients with a history of substance abuse must stay in the hospital – as long as six weeks – for treatment due to concern about drug use through the PICC.

Extended hospitalization forces opioid withdrawal, Fanucchi said, which can create such tension between patient and health-care providers that it leads to early discharge and recurrence of endocarditis.

“Once you’re feeling better, it’s really hard to stay in the hospital for six weeks,” she said. “It’s boring, you’re away from your family, and it’s expensive.”



Dr. Laura Fanucchi,
*Internist and
Faculty
Member,
University
of Kentucky*

Patients need evidence-based treatment to repair their hearts, Fanucchi said, but the underlying cause of endocarditis – opioid addiction – lacks evidence-based treatment and intervention during hospitalization. Using MVP funds, her team set out to prove hospitalization for endocarditis presents an opportunity to introduce medication-assisted therapies for opioid use, such as buprenorphine (Suboxone), methadone or naltrexone. They also wanted to find out whether patients in medication-assisted therapy for opioid use could safely (and simultaneously)



Members of the original six teams of researchers and physician scientists awarded pilot funding through the University of Kentucky's Multidisciplinary Value Program are shown with Dr. Robert DiPaola, dean of the University of Kentucky Medical School (far right). From left, they are: Yekaterina Zaytseva, PhD; Kristin Ashford, PhD; Tianyan Gao, PhD; Sharon Walsh, PhD; Heidi Weiss, PhD; Peter Hardy, PhD; Laura Fanucchi, MD, MPH; B. Mark Evers, MD, PhD; Daret St. Clair, PhD; Chi Wang, PhD; Eun Young Lee, MD; Luksana Chaiswing, PhD; Ed Kasarskis, MD, PhD; Haining Zhu, PhD; Richard Kryscio, PhD; Mehdi Khosravi, MD; Tony English, PT, PhD; Markos Leggas, PhD; Travis Sexton, PhD; Melody Ryan, PharmD, MPH; Susan Smyth, MD, PhD; John Abt, PhD; Zhenyu Li, MD, PhD; and Cale Jacobs, PhD.

receive antibiotic treatments at home and in an outpatient setting.

“There are no data to suggest that keeping these patients in the hospital affects rates of completion of antibiotic treatment or of reoperation or that doing so prevents illicit drug use. There may in fact be harm associated with prolonged hospitalization ...,” wrote Fanucchi and Dr. Michelle R. Lofwall, an addiction medicine specialist at UK, in a 2016 article published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The team recruited 20 patients with OUD and IE to participate in a randomized clinical trial. Ten patients were medically stabilized and released from the hospital, then received intensive, transitional outpatient antibiotic therapy and medication-assisted therapy (buprenorphine); the remaining participants were hospitalized and

administered antibiotics, as well as buprenorphine for opioid use. Patients who left the hospital earlier had an average length of stay about 20 days shorter than those hospitalized full time, Fanucchi said.

The results: All patients finished their antibiotics, and the proportion of study participants who reported illicit opioid use while on the buprenorphine was about the same in the two groups, she said.

“It was actually a little bit better in the group that left early,” Fanucchi said. “We felt like the results suggest this is a possible model (of care) that is feasible and safe for a population of patients.”

The study was not large enough to show whether one model is better than the other, she said, “but it was big enough to show that is a reasonable thing to try. I think we need better models than just keeping people in the hospital for six weeks.”



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HEALTH CARE

UK internist and faculty member Dr. Laura Fanucchi, left, and Dr. Michelle R. Lofwall, an addiction medicine specialist at UK, are both working on an MVP team researching methods to improve addiction treatment for hospitalized opioid dependent patients.

“Not only is it very costly, but it’s not what patients want to do,” Fanucchi said. “And it may not necessarily be safer from a long-term outcome treatment perspective.”

If replicated in a larger study, these results could support outpatient care for some opioid-addicted patients with endocarditis. It could save lives and billions of dollars, she said.

Her team has applied for federal funding to conduct a larger trial to demonstrate efficacy. If approved for funding, the larger trial would likely start in the summer of 2019.

“That was the big point of the MVP program, to internally fund small pilot studies that can be used as preliminary work to support external proposals,” she said.

Improving stroke care, recovery

Stroke is the third leading cause of death in Kentucky and the fifth nationally. But strokes occur at an earlier age in the commonwealth than in the rest of the country.

Despite the prevalence of stroke, current standards of care include only two potential treatments. Both can be highly effective in removing the clot that caused the stroke, but neither therapy treats injuries caused by it.

Dr. Gregory Bix, director of the UK Center for Advanced Translational Stroke Science, whom DiPaola calls a “superstar in the laboratory,” teamed with neurologist Dr. Justin Fraser to develop new treatments using existing therapies to protect brain tissue after a stroke. With funds from the

MVP program, Bix and Fraser developed a clinical trial called MAVARIC (Magnesium and Verapamil After Recanalization in Ischemia of the Cerebrum).

It investigates administering blood vessel dilators Verapamil and magnesium sulfate immediately upon minimally invasive surgical clot removal to reduce brain damage and promote healing in stroke survivors. (A related study, called BACTRAC, is developing a tissue bank of thrombi (stroke-causing clots) and distal and peripheral blood to examine the immediate molecular changes that occur at the stroke site. Both studies are the first of their kind.)

“Patients coming in today now have an option under the umbrella of the clinical trial,” DiPaola said, “of not only getting the treatment that might be the



Dr. Gregory Bix, Director, UK Center for Advanced Translational Stroke Science



Dr. Justin Fraser, Neurologist, University of Kentucky

best standard of care – bringing in a catheter (threaded through blood vessels) to remove the clot – but at the same time infusing these agents (magnesium and Verapamil). It gives a patient an option for something that wouldn’t have been available before.”

The same can be said for patients involved in the other MVP trials too, DiPaola said. They have treatment options for serious illnesses that were not available just a year or two ago.

“This program is a novel model that can not only do great things for UK research but also save lives and allow our citizens to participate in research that will improve their lives,” said Cassis.

“I am especially excited about the potential for these initial teams ... to develop into broader groups of interdisciplinary teams that are competitive for large grant mechanisms. These large applications give us the best chance of having the most significant impact on these health disparities that our citizens experience.”

The other MVP projects include teams studying:

- Altered lipid metabolism as a novel target for colon cancer treatment.
- Treatment of FUS-related ALS with betamethasone.
- Assessing effects of electronic cigarettes on airway resistance in asthma.
- Early anti-inflammatory treatment in patients with acute ACL tears and painful effusions.
- The INFUSE trial (Intervening with Platelet Transfusions in Septic Patients).
- Mechanisms and treatment of skeletal muscle weakness in acute lung injury.
- Application of theory and evidence to promote full recovery from pediatric injury. ■

Lorie Hailey is a correspondent for The Lane Report. She can be reached at editorial@lanereport.com.

Sponsors Sought to Fund More MVP Teams

WITH eight clinical trials underway or completed and 12 external grants received so far, the Multidisciplinary Value Program is proving to be a success.

The MVP provides researchers the opportunity to conduct more clinical trials and publish the results, and then “it becomes even broader than just an opportunity for patients in Kentucky,” DiPaola said. “They (the researchers) apply for federal grants, go to podium sessions nationally to broadcast what they’re doing here and their results. That’s how you lead to new standards of care and national impact for us.”

To build on the success, continue the momentum and fund even more research projects that are ready for pilot clinical trials, the university is seeking outside funding from potential donors.

“Typically, it takes about \$100,000 to have these (teams) launched, but think of what it’s doing: taking new discoveries and getting them to have impact in the clinic with a high rate of return and follow-up,” DiPaola said. “We’ve been working on more fundraising for opportunities to sponsor a team or part of a team to be able to continue to do this (program) over time.”

Any business or organization that would like to learn more about how full or partial sponsorship of an MVP team might work can contact Kim Harris, senior director of philanthropy in the UK College of Medicine, at (859) 257-3145 or kim.harris2@uky.edu.

To learn more about MVP, visit med.uky.edu/mvp-teams.



Women Worthy of Note

Women who are making a difference
in the commercial life of Kentucky

BY LORIE HAILEY

OUR occasional feature, Top Women in Business, highlights some of the women around Kentucky who are making an impact in business, the professions, politics and economic development. The intent is to recognize not the household names, but those in key roles whose work ethic and body of work are making important contributions to commerce – and life – in the area.

The seven women featured in this issue are among the many such women *The Lane Report* editorial board has identified. We welcome your suggestions for others who also are deserving of recognition for their efforts to boost the economy. Send your recommendations to editorial@lanereport.com.

Sylvia Buxton



Sylvia Buxton is a native of Montreal, Canada, who resides in Lakeside Park, Ky.

Title/company: President and CEO, Perfetti van Melle, North America.

How long at company/position: Almost three years with the company; in current role since mid-August.

Previous jobs/positions: Vice president of marketing North America for PVM; various marketing roles at Hershey (U.S. and Canada) and Reckitt & Coleman (Canada).

Top accomplishment: As senior director of marketing for Hershey's seasonal products, I accelerated this \$1.9 billion seasonal portfolio by forging a new vision and strategy, delivering four consecutive years of above-plan sales, profit and market share (+2.2 points share).

Education: Bachelor of business administration with marketing focus and economics minor, Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada.

Person(s) who most influenced or mentored me: Rick Rocchi, vice president of marketing at Hershey, was a key mentor and sponsor for me when I led the U.S. seasonal business there. He was instrumental in helping me grow as a business leader, and move into bigger global and regional marketing roles.

What inspires/drives me: My love of marketing began in high school when I ran several small companies as part of Junior Achievement. As my career has progressed, I have become a passionate coach and mentor, with a particular emphasis on nurturing emerging women leaders. I see the role of a senior leader pretty simply: Set the vision, lead the people and enable success.

Hobby/interests/volunteer work: To keep me balanced and reduce stress, I keep fit by swimming on a Masters team. I usually attend two or three competitions each year, some local and some national or international, so that I have goals to work toward. To give back to my community, I volunteer with the Network of Executive Women (new.org). This is a fantastic organization for women in business.

Currently reading and/or recent movie/play/concert attended:

Book – “Go Put Your Strengths to Work”; concert – Indigo Girls.

My biggest challenge and how I overcame it: Moving from Canada to the U.S. was a big shift for my family. When my husband and I moved to Pennsylvania, our son was 2 and our

daughter was 8 months old. With a two-career family, my husband and I had to work together to balance family, work and life. All of our family and friends were in Canada, so we had no support network. Two things we did to make it work: We got a babysitter every Saturday morning through the warmer months so my husband and I could go biking together; and we made Saturday “family dinner night” where the four of us went out together.

My advice to younger women in business: One of the biggest mistakes women make is thinking their results will speak for themselves. You need to network inside and outside your organization so you can learn from others, but don't be afraid to share the great things you are doing. Then those people can be your advocates when senior leaders are looking for the next person to tap for a new opportunity or new promotion.

Beth Davisson



Beth Davisson was born in Harrodsburg and raised in Louisville, where she currently resides.

Title/company: Executive Director, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Foundation – The Workforce Center.

How long at company/position: Two years.

Previous jobs/positions: Director of career services, Sullivan University; executive search consultant, The Oliver Group; marketing segment leader, Greater Louisville Inc.

Top accomplishment: Recently, I am most proud of opening The Workforce Center for the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Foundation. The first of its

kind in the nation, the center is designed to ensure the talent needs of the business community are met. Over the past two years, it has grown from just myself to a staff of eight, and greatly increased our capacity to serve Kentucky's economy and support a healthy and thriving workforce. On a personal note, my husband and I recently decided to foster to adopt. While we're not foster parents yet, I believe this will be the most rewarding accomplishment of our lives.

Education: Bachelor of arts, University of Kentucky; master's in business administration, Sullivan University; trained behavior analyst, The Predictive Index; Leadership Louisville – Bingham Fellow, Class of 2017; Talent Pipeline Management graduate and course facilitator, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Person who most influenced or mentored me: My parents, Wayne and Deborah Harper.

Hobbies/interests/volunteer work: I love to kayak. I volunteer as a Big Sister in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program in Louisville and serve as a workforce chair for the Kentucky Society for Human Resource Management.

Currently reading and/or recent movie/play/concert attended: I just finished reading "The Child Finder," a gripping page turner, and getting ready to crack open Michelle Obama's "Becoming." I saw the Piano Guys at the Louisville Palace and Justin Timberlake at Rupp; both were AH-mazing!

My biggest challenge and how I overcame it: I could not find a job out of college. I had earned a marketing degree from UK but no experience. I was waitressing late every night to pay the bills and interning for free Monday through Friday at a top PR firm in Louisville. I had holes in the soles of my waitress shoes and was struggling to make the ends meet, but I never gave up. After about eight months, I landed an incredible role with the Louisville Chamber of Commerce (GLI.) That was nearly 15 years ago, and while I have faced many significant challenges since, those moments taught me just how much grit I have, to set fear aside and always bet on myself.

My advice to younger women in business: It is so important to build work relationships and not burn bridges. The only way truly great work gets done is through strong partnerships. To this day, I work with, or around, nearly all of my previous employers, and am constantly reminded how critical it is to end relationships on a positive note. Women can have a reputation of not getting along with other women in business, and we do

not have time for this. Women hold only 24 percent of leadership roles, and less than 3 percent of executive positions are held by women of color. We have to support each other and lift one another up; there is room for us all at the table. So find your tribe, support those around you, form positive relationships, and watch (and be) the magic in the work you create.

Janice Sword Way



Janice Sword Way is a native of Pikeville who resides in Northern Kentucky.

Title/company: President, Leadership Kentucky.

How long at company/position: Four years.

Previous jobs/positions: I began my television career at WKYT-TV and Kentucky Educational Television in Lexington. Later, I worked as an anchor/reporter at WYMT-TV in Hazard and WBIR-TV in Knoxville, Tenn. Prior to Leadership Kentucky, I enjoyed a 25-year career in public relations and fundraising management at The St. Luke Hospitals and St. Elizabeth Healthcare in Northern Kentucky.

Top accomplishment: My greatest accomplishment is being a good mom to my three boys. They have brought me the greatest joys of my life. Being part of the original team launching WYMT is a highlight as the station has been transformational for Eastern Kentucky. Advocating and fundraising for the hospitals was extremely significant. Now, I have an extraordinary opportunity to witness a new group of leaders each year who recognize Kentucky's amazing attributes and desire to improve our state.

Education: B.A. in broadcast/journalism from Eastern Kentucky University and M.A. in telecommunications from the University of Michigan. I hold a CFRE (Certified Fundraising Executive).

What inspires/drives me: My work. I'm excited Leadership Kentucky will be celebrating its 35th anniversary this year. I'm inspired by our 1,700-plus alumni doing community work, holding political offices, leading companies and making a difference.

Hobby/interests/volunteer work: Traveling, scrapbooking and movies are some of my favorites. I volunteer with the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, KET, American Heart Association, and the Association of Leadership Programs.

Currently reading and/or recent movie/play/concert attended: With Leadership Kentucky, I travel a lot, and this affords time to listen to audio books. One of my favorites is "Team of Rivals" by Doris Kearns Goodwin.

My biggest challenge and how I overcame it: Through good and bad, I learned to keep pushing forward, make ethical decisions, seek counsel from trusted colleagues and have faith that things will work out.

My advice to younger women in business: Develop a network of supportive professional friends and mentors. They will motivate you through the tough times and celebrate your successes. Never be afraid to try something new. You will be working a long time, so make sure you are challenged, create an important difference for others, and have fun!

Angie McDonald Evans



Angie McDonald Evans is a native of Louisville, where she currently resides.

Title/company: Vice president, corporate responsibility and community affairs, LG&E and KU Energy LLC.

How long at company/position: Four years.

Previous jobs/positions: Vice president, corporate leadership – Community Foundation of Louisville; vice president, private banker – National City, now PNC Bank; director of planned giving, University of Louisville.

Top accomplishment: The success of my children, former employees and mentees.

Education: B.A. in English, classical studies minor, Centre College; juris doctor, University of Kentucky College of Law. Graduate of Leadership Louisville, Ignite Louisville and Bingham Fellows programs.

Person(s) who most influenced or mentored me: My father, Larry M. McDonald (retired Humana executive and current president of the Lincoln Foundation) and my grandmother, Angie V. McDonald; Martha Ash, the eighth-grade English teacher who helped build my confidence and introduced me to Centre College; the late Mary H. Griffith and Mayor David L. Armstrong, who gave me my career start in Jefferson County government; Laura Douglas, Phoebe Wood, Alice Houston, Merrily Orsini, Carolle Jones-Clay and Lois Mateus, who are amazing, successful and kind women.

What inspires/drives me: My commitment to make the world a better place for the socioeconomically disadvantaged.

Hobby/interests/volunteer work: Currently serving on the Centre College Board of Trustees and the board of directors for Actors Theatre, American Printing House for the Blind, Bates Community Development Corp., Community Foundation of Louisville, James Graham Brown Foundation and Women Influencing Louisville. I love to travel, visit the ocean and read.

Currently reading and/or recent movie/play/concert attended: Currently reading “Becoming” by former First Lady Michelle Obama; I recently saw “Ralph Wrecks the Internet” and “The Grinch” with my 3-year-old grandson and my husband.

My biggest challenge and how I overcame it: Managing my demanding life. I work at it every day and have learned to say “no” to some things and “yes” to the people and projects that get priority.

My advice to younger women in business: Be trustworthy, reliable, kind and genuine as you build professional relationships. You will encounter the same people in different ways along your career path. Build and protect your brand.

Meredith Rozanski



Meredith Rozanski spent most of her life in northwest Florida, but has lived in Bowling Green for six years.

Title/company: Chief operating officer, Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce.

How long at company/position: Six years.

Previous jobs/positions: Chief financial officer of Avalex Technologies; chief operating officer of Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce; senior accountant, Saltmarsh, Cleveland and Gund.

Top accomplishments: Creating SCK LAUNCH initiative in Bowling Green/Warren County, a partnership between the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce, the Bowling Green Independent School District, Warren County Public Schools and local businesses.

Education: Master of accountancy, University of West Florida; licensed CPA.

Person who most influenced or mentored me: My father, a career Air Force man and the epitome of an ethical person who always looked out for the underdog.

What inspires/drives me: I’ve always been a very driven person, even as a child. I love new experiences, meeting new people and seeing new things. I was raised that all things worth doing are worth doing well, so I try to give the best of me in all I do.

Hobby/interests/volunteer work: Spending time with my daughter (a senior in high school) and attending sporting events. I love football and am learning to be a basketball fan since moving to Kentucky.

Currently reading and/or recent movie/play/concert attended: “The

Power of a Positive Team” by Jon Gordon and “9 Rules of Engagement” by Harris Faulkner.

My biggest challenge and how I overcame it: Losing my father in 2008 to cancer. While I don’t have him here to provide advice and counsel, I reflect on what his advice would be to me as I face adversity and do my best to overcome the situation at hand in a manner that he would be proud of. He lives on in me and my siblings as well as in our children.

My advice to younger women in business: “Anything boys can do, girls can do better.” In all seriousness, break the stereotypes! If you have a passion and a talent for something, pursue it and be great at it.

Ellen McGeeney



Ellen McGeeney is a native of Louisville who currently resides in Lexington.

Title/company: President/COO, Ale-8 One Bottling Co.

How long at company/position: Five years.

Previous jobs/positions: CEO, Optasite (a communications and technology company in Connecticut); management consultant in health-care and communications tech, Vertex Partners; consultant in consumer products group with Booz-Allen in New York City; consulted for start-up Rooibee Red Tea in Louisville. Currently serving on the board of the Kentucky Beverage Association and Brinly-Hardy in Louisville.

Top accomplishment: My kids are far and away what I am most proud of, but at Ale-8, I am proudest of two things. First, what we have done for our employees: We have grown to approximately 120, creating 35 new full-time jobs. We have grown compensation levels, and especially

increased our minimum wages; we won the KEMI Destiny Safety Award for eight consecutive years; we increased our 401(k) match and grown participation in retirement savings; and we invested in employee training and development. Second, we are making the company more resilient by expanding our geography and diversifying our product portfolio. We launched the first flavor of Ale-8-One in 92 years, Cherry Ale8, and we have more exciting flavors in development.

Education: B.A. with honors, Brown University; MBA from Yale University.

Person who most influenced me: My grandmother on my mother's side and my aunt on my father's side were both hugely influential. Being around my grandmother was like being under a magical spell; in her presence you felt smarter, wittier and more beautiful. She taught me true leaders serve those they lead and are gifted at bringing forth the greatness in others. My aunt, Jane, had the strength of 100 bulls, and is a voice I lean on when things get tough to remind me how very fortunate I am. Today, Leah Park, my HR manager, is my mentor. She is half my age and twice as wise and makes me a far better leader than I otherwise would be.

What inspires/drives me: I am inspired and motivated every day by our incredibly dedicated employees. The challenge that drives me every day is to provide jobs that are stable, safe, and that offer a living wage, strong health-care benefits and robust retirement benefits in a culture that is warm, kind, respectful, hard-working and resilient. The family that leads Ale-8-One is committed to the employees in a way that is all too rare these days, and I am blessed to be able to lead with concern for our employees as a top priority in our decision-making, right up there with impact on our financial strength.

Hobbies/interests/volunteer work: Outside of work, my focus at this time is my family. I have three children who are launching and I love to cook for them, take walks with them, help them with homework, share a service project, or stay up late discussing the challenges of the day. My first duty every day is to serve my family. The way I look at it, I chose to bring these people into this world, and it is my sacred duty to help see them to happy and meaningful lives. After that, I love local food, singing, playing ping-pong, writing, teaching and traveling with friends.

Currently reading and/or recent movie/play/concert attended: I just finished "Lincoln in the Bardo," a beautifully wrought and moving imagination of Lincoln's sorrow with the death of his son. I recently read "Reengineering Retail" for our book club at work to help us imagine what the future of retail will look like and how we can succeed in that environment.

My biggest challenge and how I overcame it: Finding balance. I meditate.

My advice to younger women in business: Guard your time. My girlfriends and I always joke that "balance is for ballerinas," meaning I do not believe it is possible to "have it all," at least not at one time. If you're putting in the time to be good at anything, other areas will get short shrift. I believe you can craft the life you desire with a lot of thought, hard work, some tough decisions and plenty of good fortune. Once you've made your decisions, go easy on yourself. Recognize that you're in a season, and enjoy and make the most of the season you are in.

Billie Dollins



Billie Dollins is a native of Danville, who currently resides in Lexington.

Title/company: Market president (Frankfort, Georgetown, Versailles), Community Trust Bank.

How long at company/position: Eight years.

Previous jobs/positions: Senior vice president, retail banking, National City Bank; vice president and regional manager, Fifth Third Bank.

Education: Western Kentucky University; Stonier Graduate School of Banking; Wharton Business School Leadership Certification; Mid-West Trust School.

Person(s) who most influenced or mentored me: I've had many mentors over my career, so identifying just one is difficult. The mentors who have most influenced me have demonstrated their confidence in me, challenged me with more responsibility, rewarded my hard work, and in some ways, taught me how to be a better person. They also "had my back," which allowed me to feel comfortable making decisions.

What inspires/drives me: Knowing that someone has faith and confidence in me. My co-workers inspire me on a daily basis. Positive and passionate people inspire me to work harder.

Hobby/interests/volunteer work: Golf is my hobby. Volunteer activities: 2018 chair of American Heart Association's Go Red for Women Experience. Board member of: Lexington Humane Society, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Operation Read, National Conference for Community Justice, Women Leading Kentucky, Kentucky Women's Leadership Network, The Living Arts & Science Center, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, American Cancer Society, REACH Inc., and the Lexington Dream Factory. I'm a graduate of Leadership Kentucky, Leadership Lexington and the Kentucky Women's Leadership Network.

Currently reading and/or recent movie/play/concert attended: Most recently, I attended a Heart concert, which happened to be the 22nd time I've seen them!

My biggest challenge and how I overcame it: A challenge can be made as a positive or a negative; it depends on me to determine how I approach each one. For challenges in which I've not been satisfied with the outcome, I've tried to learn from those; i.e. what could I've done differently?

My advice to younger women in business: Be authentic, be honest, be kind, be respectful and be humble. Keep your word. Surround yourself with quality, positive people. Stay away from negativity. ■

Lorie Hailey is a correspondent for The Lane Report. She can be reached at editorial@lanereport.com.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS



TLT Photography founder/artist Ted Tarquinio of Louisville explains some of his fine photography during the 2018 Kentucky Crafted Market sale and show. The 2019 Market is March 16-17 at Alltech Arena at the Kentucky Horse Park, just north of Lexington.

Kentucky Crafted Market Back in Lexington for 2019

THE Kentucky Crafted Market is March 16-17 at the Kentucky Horse Park's Alltech Arena. We're excited to be back in Lexington for this annual event that puts a spotlight on the best in Kentucky-made art and craft. In addition to work by Kentucky artists, The Market will feature

great products from Kentucky Proud food producers, music by Kentucky acts, and activities for the entire family.

The word "Kentucky" appeared six times in the previous paragraph, so we hope you get the idea that this is a Kentucky-centric event.

With that in mind, I'd like to turn your attention to March 15, a day we set aside for wholesale buyers, interior designers, corporate gift buyers and others involved in purchasing for clients to have access to The Market for the purpose of seeing artwork and placing orders. This is a service we provide every year at The Market. It allows those buyers to peruse the artwork and speak with the artists in a more relaxed environment.

So if you're a retail business owner who'd like to start adding Kentucky-made products to your inventory, we want you at The Market. If you're in charge of purchasing corporate gifts for your company and you're looking for items that have a story to them, this is an ideal event. If you're an interior designer who's looking for that piece that will pull your concept together, come on down!



Retail and corporate buyers at The Kentucky Crafted Market are guaranteed to find the best in handmade visual art and craft by some of Kentucky's best artists.

Welcome the Podcast: KyArtsCast

THE Kentucky Arts Council is proud to announce the debut of a monthly podcast that will focus on arts council programs, events and Kentucky artists and the work they are doing. We're calling it KyArtsCast, and it's downloadable at kyartscast.ky.gov and on iTunes and Google Podcast.

This podcast has been in the works for several months, and we're excited to be able to branch out into another area of communication. It will be a good opportunity to connect with Kentucky's arts community in a convenient way. If you don't have time to listen to the podcast right away, just download it and save it for later.



The first episode debuted last month and we look forward to uploading our second episode later this month. We hope you'll subscribe.

Update on the Creative Industry

At the recent Kentucky Creative Industry Summit the arts council hosted in Georgetown, we were able to report some gains in two out of three categories we are tracking. Kentucky saw 1 percent gains in the number of jobs related to the creative industry and in industry earnings between 2015 and 2016. At the end of 2016, total creative industry earnings were \$2.2 billion, a gain of \$13.3 million in one year. For that same year, Kentucky created 1,000 more jobs in the creative industry, bringing that total to more than 94,000. This includes creative industry workers in full- and part-time positions, extended proprietors and self-employed.

The arts council is tracking this information via a new data reporting service called Creative Vitality Suite. This service allows us to track creative industry trends and information down to the county level. With this tool, we can look at individual counties, clusters of counties or entire regions of the state. We are looking forward to using Creative Vitality to better understand the needs and strengths of each area of Kentucky.



Chris Cathers is interim executive director of the Kentucky Arts Council.

EMERGING LANE

Kentucky's young professionals and creatives



No Rest for a Restaurateur

Serial program creator dives back into the kitchen – and keeps a microphone nearby

As a child in Lawrenceburg, Ky., Robbie Morgan wanted to be a star. “I fully expected I would be a truck driver or a Solid Gold dancer,” she said. With boundless energy, the Anderson County native took off for Chicago after high school.

Morgan performed theater with the Neo-Futurists troupe, cooked at a Southern reconstruction restaurant, helped open the flagship American Girl store café and worked as a community educator at an all-girls’ school in Chicago’s South Side neighborhood, which inspired her to learn more about medical sociology.

In 2003 she went to the University of Toronto and earned a degree in sexual diversity studies and sociology. During her school years in Ontario, Morgan cooked at Le Petite Dejeuner with owner and chef Johan Maes, “where I learned the fine dance of working in tiny kitchens,” she said. “It was during my years at U of T that I began working in fundraising and made a career shift into development.” She spent the next couple of years working at the university in Canada, in alumni affairs and professional fundraising.

“I missed my family and the hug of the Kentucky mountains, so I moved back to the states and Kentucky in 2009, plopped myself right down in Lexington and got to work,” she said.

Among other artistic and entrepreneurial endeavors, Morgan was the campaign manager for LexArts; she started Change for Art, a public art program involving parking meters; she created Crave Lexington Food + Music Festival and launched it with Smiley Pete in 2012; and she worked with the UK Art Museum to create Y’Art Sales.

“I missed being in the weeds, stressed out and taking risks to create something big, so I dove back into a place I missed,” she said. “The kitchen.”

In the fall of 2018, Morgan became a franchise owner-operator (and chief cook and bottle washer) of a J. Gumbo’s restaurant on the north side of Lexington. Based in

Franchise Operator of J. Gumbo’s is the latest job title for Robbie Morgan, a former campaign manager for LexArts and creator of Crave Lexington Food + Music Festival.

Louisville, the quick-service chain has locations in a dozen states offering a menu of Cajun and Creole dishes. Morgan’s storefront looks a bit different from the other J. Gumbo’s restaurants, and she uses her own recipes.

There’s certainly a bowl of gumbo on the menu, along with red beans and rice and jambalaya. But then, on any given week, Morgan may serve up a bowl of rice with stewed tomato and eggplant from Elkhorn Oaks Farm in Versailles, or a shrimp étouffée with shrimp sourced from Lexington’s Rolling Blue Farm and topped with hot sauce from Sav’s Grill & West African Cuisine. Her daily bread pudding often has a base of donuts from North Lime Coffee & Donuts and might come with a Kentucky bourbon sauce or a toasted-oak syrup from Gents Original Ginger Ale, a gelato from Sorella Gelateria or cookies from Martine’s Pastries.

Morgan is so eco-conscious – and that stands for economical as well as ecological – she implemented “10 Dollar, No Holla Sundays” for students and nonprofit workers to bring a bag at closing time and have it loaded with food that would have otherwise been thrown away, because the restaurant is closed on Mondays.

J. Gumbo’s Lexington offers takeout, catering and delivery via several services, including Grubhub. The garden behind the shop is referred to as a gARTen, of course, and is the site of artist talks and live music. You can even see Morgan behind the microphone from time to time, with or without an apron. She fronts two bands, The Binders and Second Hand News, a Fleetwood Mac tribute band.

Morgan found the perfect spot for her restaurant on North Limestone, an up-and-coming part of Lexington known as NoLi. It’s her first foray into employer-ville, although she is no stranger to heading up a staff of volunteers. It’s different having a staff of seven employees, though.

“Meeting payroll and being responsible for other people’s livelihood is terrifying,” she said. “I take it very seriously. I want to be selling more and having more customers because I’m responsible for these people’s paychecks.”

Her managerial style is one of “giving people tools to be successful and getting out of their way.” Although it hasn’t come naturally to her, what with so much built-in ambition and creativity, Morgan knows that vision drives the bus, not artistic temperament.

“As the boss or leader, you have the grand vision,” she said. “You have to keep your head in the macro. You can never sink in the micro.” —Kathie Stamps



Robbie Morgan (center) with Grammy Award-winning bassist Christian McBride (second from left) and members of his jazz ensemble.

Richard Young photo

Kentucky Artist Shines Making Artwork for Other Artists



Pike County native Stef Ratliff has created artwork given as awards to musicians such as Jason Isbell, Loretta Lynn and Chris Stapleton.

In addition to bland childhood furniture, Ratliff credits music as one of the main influences of her artwork and creative pursuits. At a young age her brother introduced her to punk music, leading to an affinity for Nirvana, Face to Face, Le Tigre and like-minded acts. Ratliff later found out many of the artists she'd begun to listen to are influenced by the kings and queens of country music such as Dolly Parton and Loretta Lynn – all of which Ratliff includes among her favorite artists due to the authenticity and relatability of their lyrics.

"I think female country music has been such an inspiration to Southern women; it's the lyrics that we can relate to," Ratliff said. "There are plenty of artists I love whom I can't fully relate to their lyrics. But when you hear Tammy Wynette singing 'I Don't Want To Play House,' you get it and can breathe a little more knowing you're not the only one going against an ideal Southern tradition."

Ratliff received her formal education at Morehead State University, graduating in 2010 with a bachelor of arts in art and again in 2018 with a master of arts in art. She says her academics provided her the opportunity to learn new techniques and work with equipment she wouldn't have had to opportunity to use otherwise. Ratliff also believes the skills she learned are what has and will continue to help her work stand out from similar artists, rather than boxing her in.



While at Morehead State, Ratliff spent time working at the Fuzzy Duck Coffee Shop, where she met Grant Alden, a co-founder of *No Depression* magazine and one of the founding members of the Americana Music Association (Alden's family also owns the coffee shop). The two hit it off and immediately became close friends.

Prior to enrolling in graduate school at Morehead State, Ratliff received two rejection letters from other graduate programs, but before having time to process the moment she got an email from Alden asking if she could paint the awards and honors for the

Americana Music Awards. She's been doing this since 2013 for countless artists, including Kentuckians Loretta Lynn, Chris Stapleton, Sturgill Simpson and Tyler Childers.

In 2014 Ratliff had the opportunity to create art for a Lifetime Achievement for Songwriting for Kentucky legend and Queen of Country Music Loretta Lynn. The moment sticks out as one of the highlights of Ratliff's artistic pursuits thus far. She was able to bring her father, a former coal miner, to the awards show that year. The two not only got to watch Lynn accept the award Ratliff crafted, but witnessed a performance of her hit song "Coal Miner's Daughter."

"That moment was mind blowing for me," Ratliff said. "Here was a woman from the coalfields who made herself into one of the queens of country while breaking with industry standards and giving a voice to Southern issues by performing songs like 'The Pill.' Seeing someone who is from the coalfields succeed in the arts is so inspiring and motivating to me."

Ratliff's artwork can be found at kyarttrat.com.—Matt Wickstrom

FOR many aspiring artists, a move to Nashville presents the opportunity to make it big under the bright lights in an entertainment epicenter. However, nearly all of those artists' pursuits are of the musical variety, whereas Stephanie "Stef" Ratliff's is in painting – a path that has led her to creating works that will be awarded to her musical colleagues in the city's creative community.

Ratliff, a Pike County native who also dabbles with ceramics and printmaking, says that white bland furniture in her childhood bedroom was the catalyst for her artistic endeavors. As a result, Ratliff recalls everything in her room being covered in stickers, acting as her first canvas of sorts and reminding her that functional items can be functional artwork.



Louisville's low cost of living helped the city to rank 5th best in a study by ValueGamers of the easiest cities to become a full-time gamer.

Louisville Ranked a Top City for Gamers

A recent study by Value Gamers, a video game hardware and software review company, looked at myriad data to determine the easiest and most difficult cities in the United States to become a full-time gamer. Thanks to its low cost of living, Louisville compiled a fifth-place ranking in the study, which looked at 50 cities nationwide.

ValueGamers calculated the cost of living for each city by following the 50-30-20 rule – 50 percent of salary goes toward expenses, 30 percent goes toward splurges and 20 percent goes toward savings – and dividing that number by the amount of money an average Twitch user makes per follower, which for the study was set at \$3. The result yields the average number of Twitch followers people would need to have in each city studied to live comfortably as a full-gamer.

To live comfortably in Louisville as a gamer one would need 1,406 Twitch followers according to ValueGamers' study. Ranking higher are Wichita, Kan. (1,364 followers); Cleveland, Ohio, (1,328 followers); El Paso, Texas (1,327 followers) and Detroit (1,214 followers). Conversely, the toughest cities to live as a full-time gamer were New York City (2,687 followers); Los Angeles (2,769 followers); Oakland, Calif. (2,910 followers); San Jose, Calif. (3,204 followers); and San Francisco (3,898 followers).

Esports, Twitch and Instagram have made it possible for avid gamers to make a living playing video games. There are over 500,000 streamers on Twitch streaming more than 220 million hours of footage. Esports is the fastest growing sport in the world. As popularity continues to grow, cities that offer a low cost of living such as Louisville can attract a cohort of aspiring professional gamers looking to turn a hobby into a full-time thing.

For more information visit ValueGamers.com.—Matt Wickstrom



Paul Wechman, the owner of Otto's, with his family in front of the Covington Mainstrasse eatery.

Fun Food!

Check out Northern Kentucky for an array of culinary delights

BY KATHERINE TANDY BROWN

IF you believe all the cool food eateries in the top of the commonwealth lie across the river in Cincinnati, think again. Northern Kentucky boasts foodie spots old and new, and the wintertime is perfect for a road trip to fill your tummy.

How about a bit of comfort food to warm those chilly innards? Say...hot tomato soup and a grilled cheese sandwich? As seen on Shark Tank, The Chew and the Travel Channel, **Tom+Chee** offers that combo as a specialty. Located at Newport on the Levee, this remarkable restaurant tickles your funny bone as it sates your hunger. In addition to 25-plus sandwiches, salads

and four soups, including two tomato choices daily, you can munch on a "life-changing" grilled-cheese doughnut or a s'more grilled doughnut – a modern take on over-a-campfire food.

Okay, full disclosure. Tom+Chee is a chain that began in Cincinnati. However, every location in different cities serves offerings unique to the area and its culture. And besides, three of its four founders have Northern Kentucky roots. Seasonal faves include gazpacho and blue cheese chili.

Their slogan is "Eat What's Fun!"

The **Anchor Grill** in Covington could say, "Eat what's local" because that's what this 24/7 eatery is known for:

goetta. A legacy of immigrants that settled south of the Ohio in the 1700s, this German breakfast sausage is a stick-to-your-ribs combo of pork, beef, oats, spices and water that's boiled, shaped into a loaf, chilled and fried. Originally part of a hearty farmer's breakfast, goetta is now available commercially at Glier's Goetta, the world's best-selling producer.

You can tuck in your napkin to savor some across the street from Glier's at the Anchor Grill, which serves it any way a customer asks for it. On grilled cheese, with eggs sunny side up, et al.

Goetta also stars on the menu at the **Greyhound Tavern** in Fort Mitchell, alongside the establishment's award-winning fried chicken on its glorious Sunday brunch buffet, and with an oriental twist, goetta egg rolls.

The Tavern has quite a history. Originally called the Dixie Tea Room, it began in 1921 as an ice cream parlor located at "the end of the line," where street cars turned around to head back to Cincinnati. In the '30s, Al Frisch bought it and named it The Greyhound Grill, in honor of his brother Benny, a successful greyhound trainer. Eventually, the ice cream parlor was eliminated, the bar



Tom + Chee's slogan is "Eat What's Fun!" – like grilled mac and cheese.

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The garden at the Greyhound Tavern in Fort Mitchell offers a cozy dining experience.

Head North for Foodie Fun

Anchor Grill, Covington
(859) 431-9498

Greyhound Tavern, Fort Mitchell
greyhoundtavern.com (859) 331-3767

Magee's Bakery, Maysville
(606) 759-4882

Otto's, Covington
ottosonmain.com (859) 491-6678

Smokin' This and That BBQ, Florence
smokinthisandthatbbq.com (859) 817-0492

Tom + Chee, Newport
tomandchee.com (859) 291-2433

Wildwood Inn, Florence
wildwoodinnky.com (800) 758-2335



moved to its current site, a beer garden with a jukebox was added, and "world famous" onion rings, juicy burgers and double-deckers emerged.

Now the Tavern offers an extensive selection of bourbons. Plus, for the past six years, it has garnered "Best Steak in Northern Kentucky" kudos from *Northern Kentucky Magazine*.

Family-owned **Otto's** offers – located on Covington's Mainstrasse (German for Main Street) – serves up a variety of fun dishes, such as upscale eggs. Think smoked salmon deviled eggs and B.L.F.G.T.'s (bacon, lettuce, fried green tomato, egg, cheese and mayo on a toasted croissant) at lunch or brunch. Or crab hash – lump crab and potato hash topped with a poached egg and spicy sour cream sauce. Drooling yet?

If you arrive at dinnertime, consider the shrimp and grits, complete with gulf shrimp and shitake mushrooms instead of the usual andouille sausage. Nice touch, Otto's!

Meat is king in the world of barbecue and true to its name, a mouth-watering joint in Florence smokes a ton of it per week. The community-minded owners of Smokin' This and That, Guy and

Mandy Cummins, met during Operation BBQ Relief that helped New York victims of Hurricane Sandy. With a shared passion for good food as a healing tool, the couple teamed up to provide food for funerals, police officers, military service personnel and numerous other causes.

And from this, Smokin' This and That emerged. Ever had a barbecue parfait? The restaurant's signature dish tops layers of barbecued meats and beans topped with "Miss Mandy's house-made slaw" and barbecue sauce. Or how about "Miss Mandy's loaded hot tots"? Tater tots piled to glory with baked beans, slaw, barbecue sauce, cheese sauce and of course, their barbecue. Oh my!

Or simply buy that heavenly barbecue by the pound to take home and brag about.

So far, we've been rollicking through specials and main courses without a thought of sweets. For dessert to die for, head east to Maysville, where for the past 60 years, Magee's Bakery has been whipping up transparent pie – not to be confused with pecan pie or chess pie. Originated in the 1800s, when small farm kitchens had to be creative with ingredients they had on hand, this

delectable treat contains only sugar, eggs, butter, vanilla and whipping cream. Magee's sells whole pies and cute little tarts. And just so you know, those little pups are the favorite pie of Maysville native George Clooney. You'll be in good company!

Now that Northern Kentucky has stuffed you to the gills with fun food, you'll want to put your feet up in a fun-filled spot. Without a doubt, the Wildwood Inn in Florence is the place, complete with a heated pool in a tropical dome, a massaging waterfall and themed family or romantic suites. For instance, the Happy Days Suite is a trip back to the '50s, with old Coke machines and a bed nestled in a 1959 red Cadillac convertible with serious fins. The bed in the Rustic Country Suite lies in the back of a 1949 Ford pickup and you can watch TV in an outhouse. A red, heart-shaped spa for two dominates the Cupid Suite.

All the above are sure to bring a smile and lighten your heart in the midst of a gray January. ■

Katherine Tandy Brown is a correspondent for The Lane Report. She can be reached at editorial@lanereport.com.

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NBC Sports and Churchill Downs Debut 'Road to the Kentucky Derby'

NBC Sports is partnering with Churchill Downs to debut a new "Road to the Kentucky Derby" series this spring, leading up to NBC's coverage of the 145th Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve on May 4. In March, NBC Sports will debut the first of the four 30-minute "Road to the Kentucky Derby" episodes, which will showcase the stars of the sport, telling the stories behind the horses and the legendary race.

Produced by Churchill Downs, the episodes will provide viewers with an inside look at the extensive preparations for the first leg of the Triple Crown. Keith Wetzler, executive producer of broadcast at Churchill Downs, will produce the series.

In addition, NBC Sports will add the \$1 million Louisiana Derby and the \$1 million Arkansas Derby to its lineup of 2019 Triple Crown prep races on NBC Sports next spring. The first episode of the new "Road to the Kentucky Derby" series will debut following the Louisiana Derby on March 23, followed one week later by the Florida Derby, on March 30. Coverage continues on NBC Sports with "triplecast" coverage of the Wood Memorial, the Blue Grass Stakes and the Santa Anita Derby on April 6, before the Arkansas Derby on April 13.



The most celebrated champion of the Arkansas Derby, American Pharoah in 2015, went on to become the first Triple Crown winner in 37 years.

NBC Sports' coverage of the 2019 horse-racing season begins with the Pegasus World Cup Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 26 at 4:30 pm ET on NBC.

Markey Study Finds Promising Treatment for Breast Cancer

A new Nature Communications study led by University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center researchers suggests that an enzyme known as Prolyl 4-hydroxylase subunit alpha-1 (P4HA1) is a potential therapeutic target for triple-negative breast cancer.



Triple-negative breast cancer is a moniker given to a particularly aggressive group of breast cancers that often affect younger women. Unlike the receptor-positive types of breast cancer, which have biomarkers that tell oncologists which treatment the patient should respond to, triple-negative breast cancers have no definitive biomarkers yet. If the patient does not respond well to the current standard of care, it's up to the oncologist to make an educated guess about which chemotherapy will be effective. Unfortunately, these conjectures mean that more than 50 percent of patients are likely to experience cancer recurrence in the first three to five years after treatment.

"Approximately 15 percent of all breast cancer cases are triple-negative breast cancers, and these patients frequently have metastases and a high rate of relapse after initial treatment," said GaoFeng Xiong, first author on the study. "Being able to identify a novel target like P4HA1 to suppress triple-negative breast cancer progression and chemoresistance is crucial for treatment."

Theory Explaining Addiction Wins Grawemeyer Psychology Award

UNIVERSITY of Michigan researchers Kent Berridge and Terry Robinson have won the 2019 University of Louisville Grawemeyer Award for Psychology for explaining how our brains process "liking" versus "wanting" and how neural sensitization of the "wanting" system plays a key role in drug addiction.

"Liking" and "wanting" may sound like similar processes, but Berridge and Robinson found they are produced by different brain systems. "Wanting" is driven by large pathways in the brain that use the neurotransmitter dopamine, while "liking" is controlled in smaller, pleasure-generating hotspots that do not use dopamine.

The researchers proposed in their "Incentive-Sensitization Theory of Addiction" that the dopamine system in addicts' brains becomes hypersensitive to drugs and drug cues, which can produce excessive "wanting" for drugs. This sensitization effect can last for years, making it harder for addicts to resist drugs even when they want to avoid them and get little pleasure from taking them. Learning how to safely reverse that process could lead to a more effective way to treat addiction, they concluded.

"Their idea has had a broad impact on how we understand drug addiction and other addictive compulsions such as gambling, binge eating and sex," said Woody Petry, a University of Louisville psychology and brain sciences professor who directs the award. "Its scope also extends to brain disorders such as schizophrenia and depression."

In 1993, when Berridge and Robinson first published their theory, it ran contrary to all thinking about pleasure systems in the brain. However, studies over the past 25 years have supported it, and their original paper on the subject has been cited in other publications more than 6,500 times, Petry said.

They both hold distinguished professorships in psychology and neuroscience at the University of Michigan. Together they received the 2016 Distinguished Scientific Contributions Award from the American Psychological Association. Both have been elected fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and have received many other prestigious prizes.

The annual Grawemeyer Awards reward outstanding ideas in music, world order, psychology, education and religion. The winners, who receive a \$100,000 prize, will visit Louisville in April to accept their awards and give free talks about their winning ideas.



UK Receives \$10 Million Gift to Support Student Scholarships

MIRA and Don Ball spent a lifetime building one of the country's most successful homebuilding businesses. They also spent a lifetime giving back in ways that strengthen lives and build communities.

That generosity will continue thanks to a gift of \$10 million that Mira Ball has given to the University of Kentucky that will support the UK LEADS (Leveraging Economic Affordability for Developing Success) initiative to fund student scholarships.

The gift – part of the Don and Mira Ball Endowed Scholarship Program – will fund dozens of undergraduate and graduate scholarships for students from Nelson and Henderson counties and the surrounding areas, focused specifically on addressing unmet financial need.



Mira Ball with University of Kentucky Board of Trustees Chair Britt Brockman (left) and UK President Eli Capilouto following the board's acceptance of Ball's \$10 million gift to UK.

Ball said, "Education is a big thing we need and the thing that will get us into the centuries to come and keep us sustainable. I hope it continues to do for everyone what it has done for me and others here."

LEADS is an initiative that attempts to address the unmet financial need of students. In recent years, UK has analyzed the factors that inhibit student success. Chief among them, according to the analysis, is unmet financial need. In fact, at \$5,000 in unmet need, the success or retention rates of students drop several percentage points, irrespective of grades or other factors.

The UK LEADS program is a cornerstone of the university's comprehensive philanthropy campaign – Kentucky Can: The 21st Century Campaign for UK.

As part of the historic \$2.1 billion campaign, UK is raising funds for 2,100 LEADS scholarships and \$300 million for scholarships more broadly. UK already has raised more than \$1.1 billion toward the campaign goal, which also is focusing on research, health care, and campus building priorities as well as strengthening athletics and the university's alumni network.

"The incredible generosity of Mira and Don Ball is being felt right here and right now at our university, but its impact will extend across time and across generations in our commonwealth," said UK President Eli Capilouto. "The ripple effect of this gift will be to build stronger families, stronger communities and a healthier, more vibrant state."

Nearly \$60 million of unmet financial need exists in Kentucky alone, UK officials estimate. Improving affordable access to college is critical to improving the commonwealth's economy. States with college graduation rates above the national average have higher per capita incomes and generally better health statistics and outcomes.

Over the last two years, a pilot program for LEADS, impacting approximately 500 students, produced retention rates that exceeded predictions by almost 20 percent, UK officials said. Expanding the program is a critical component in UK's plans to raise retention and graduation rates – already the highest in the university's history, approaching 85 percent and 66 percent, respectively – to among the best in the country.

Mira Ball grew up in Nelson County; Don Ball was from Henderson County. They met at UK and graduated from the university before launching Ball Homes. The couple also has given to – or helped lead – dozens of other initiatives across the commonwealth, including the Hope Center, which provides comprehensive assistance for homelessness and addiction.

Ball said she and her late husband, Don, discussed the gift in detail prior to his passing, which made it all the more important to make the commitment now.

"This is going to be something that is going to last, and we need to give to things that are lasting and that will mean something in the future," Mira



Magazine Names Lexmark a 'Best Company for Dads'

LEXINGTON-based Lexmark International, a global imaging solutions company, is one of 35 companies recognized on *Working Mother* magazine's first list of "Best Companies for Dads."

The list recognizes organizations that lead in the areas of paternity leave, phase-back programs, telecommuting opportunities, flexible schedules and more.

"Millennial dads want to be very involved in raising their children and to do that, they need support from their employers," said Meredith Bodgas, editor-in-chief of *Working Mother*. "These trend-setting companies are helping erase the stigma attached to men taking off time to bond with their new babies, utilizing telecommuting opportunities or flexible schedules in order to be more involved on the homefront. Not only does this help dads, it helps moms succeed both at home and at work, and puts them on more equal footing."

"Meeting the work/life balance needs of all of our employees, including working dads, helps to create a healthy work environment," said Sharon Votaw, Lexmark senior vice president and chief human resources officer. "Our paid parental leave programs and workplace flexibility offerings are designed to promote that work-life integration."

Key Facts About the 2018 "Best Companies for Dads"

- **100 percent** offer fully paid paternity leave vs. 29 percent nationally*, with the average amount offered nine weeks. The average amount taken was seven weeks.
- **100 percent** offer fully paid adoption leave vs. 28 percent nationally*, with the average amount offered 10 weeks. The average amount taken was nine weeks.
- **86 percent** offer financial benefits for in-vitro fertilization.
- **85 percent** of men in these companies use flexible schedules.
- **82 percent** of men in these companies telecommute at least some of the time.

*Society for Human Resource Management

KENTUCKY PEOPLE

ASHLAND

PATHWAYS AND UNITED HEALTH PARTNER TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH FOR CHILDREN IN EASTERN KENTUCKY



The United Health Foundation recently awarded Pathways Inc. a three-year, \$930,000 grant to implement telehealth technology capabilities that will provide improved access to mental health services for more than 3,000 children in Eastern Kentucky. Pictured here at the grant announcement are (from left to right): Kim McClanahan, CEO, Pathways; Anne Yau, vice president of external affairs, United Health Foundation; Adam Meier, secretary, Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Robin L. Webb, Kentucky state senator; Doug Newton, national senior medical director, Optum Behavioral Health; and Danny Bentley, Kentucky state representative.

LEXINGTON

ANNUAL SAINT JOSEPH HOSPITAL FOUNDATION GALA RECOGNIZES PHYSICIANS AND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

The 30th annual Evening with the Stars Gala in November raised nearly \$140,000 for the Saint Joseph Hospital Foundation to benefit the emergency department at Saint Joseph Hospital in Lexington. More than 500 people attended the event, where awards were presented to some of the area's most innovative health-care professionals and community leaders.

Right: Leslie Smart (president, Saint Joseph Hospital Foundation), Dr. John Harris (Physician of the Year, Saint Joseph Hospital), and Bruce Tassin (market CEO for KentuckyOne Health and president of Saint Joseph Hospital).



Above: Bruce Tassin (market CEO for KentuckyOne Health and president of Saint Joseph Hospital); Genie Whayne, Jean Jacobs, Helen Hamilton, Phyllis Cronin (Community Volunteer of the Year award recipients); and Leslie Smart (president, Saint Joseph Hospital Foundation).

Left: Eric Gilliam (president, Saint Joseph East) with Dr. Kathleen Martin (Physician of the Year, Saint Joseph East).

NORTHERN KENTUCKY

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS JANET HARRAH WITH COMMUNITY AWARD



The Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce recently presented Janet Harrah with the NKY Community Award. Harrah, right, is the senior director of the Center for Economic Development and Business Research at Northern Kentucky University's US Bank College of Business and for nearly a decade has shared her expertise with the chamber through her annual regional economic outlook presentation. Pictured here with Harrah is Gene Kirchner, senior vice president and COO of the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.

BOWLING GREEN

VICKI FITCH HONORED WITH KENTUCKY TRAVEL ASSOCIATION AWARD



Vicki Fitch, who retired on Nov. 30 as executive director of the Bowling Green Area Convention & Visitors Bureau after a 27-year career there, is the 2018 recipient of the Mangeot-Oaken Distinguished Service Award from the Kentucky Travel Industry Association. The award was presented on Nov. 14 during the association's annual conference and Traverse Gala Awards Dinner, held at the Owensboro Convention Center.



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