

Kentucky Chamber
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CEO COMMENTARY

Help Gov. Bevin cut the red tape for businesses

IF YOU ASK business owners what frustrates them most about running their businesses, one of the resounding answers will be the amount of red tape they have to deal with on a daily basis. As anyone in the business community can tell you, running a business in today's economy has many challenges, and government regulations are at the top of the list. Whether the rules address workforce, finances or actual processes used to produce a good or service, they often result delays, fees, inspections, reporting and in some cases enforcement penalties and fines.



By Dave Adkisson
President & CEO



Currently there are more than 4,500 regulations on the books in Kentucky, and only 15 to 20 percent of them have been reviewed recently to determine their effectiveness. That leaves a lot of regulations that we honestly don't know are needed or are working.

Luckily, here in Kentucky, there may be some relief coming to cut some of this red tape. Gov. Matt Bevin recently announced his Red Tape Reduction Initiative, asking Kentuckians to identify burdensome regulations and offer suggestions for improvement. We have asked our members, and all Kentucky businesses, to visit the website (redtapereduction.com) and share their views about the regulations they believe are a barrier to their businesses how they potentially could be fixed. This is a tremendous opportunity to cite regulations that make it difficult for businesses to keep their doors open and employ Kentuckians, and it is one that should not be wasted.

All Kentucky businesses are urged to participate in this effort. When deciding what suggestions to offer, consider not only actual regulations that should be amended or repealed but also reporting requirements, inspection and enforcement processes and fees.

See RED TAPE, page 6



CONGRESSIONAL FORUM | AUGUST 29, 2016 | THE GALT HOUSE | LOUISVILLE



McConnell

Barr

Yarmuth

Guthrie

Whitfield

Chamber to host Congressional Forum

THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER is set to host its first Congressional Forum on August 29 in Louisville to give Kentuckians a new way to interact with their representatives by bringing members of Kentucky's federal delegation back home to talk issues.

"While many organizations offer members a 'Fly-In' opportunity to visit Washington D.C. and meet with federal officials, we're pleased to offer our members the opportunity to stay in Kentucky and meet with our federal representation here," said Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson.

Featured speakers will include Kentucky U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, U.S. Rep. Andy Barr of Lexington, U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth of Louisville, U.S. Rep. Brett Guthrie of Bowling Green and retiring U.S. Rep. Ed Whitfield of Hopkinsville.

This Forum is set for Monday, August 29 at the Galt House in Louisville beginning at 8:30 am and concluding after a luncheon featuring a political panel discussing the elections and how they impact Kentucky.

The Kentucky Chamber will also be unveiling a federal agenda detailing the federal issues most important to Kentucky's business community.

Register for the event and view the full forum agenda online at kychamber.com.

October conference to explore opportunities, challenges of P3 law

IN APRIL, Kentucky became the latest state to sign a law authorizing the use of public private partnerships (P3s) to procure transportation and other infrastructure projects. The Kentucky Chamber led the effort of this legislation and hopes to build on this milestone by collaborating with the National Council on Public Private Partnerships (NCP3P) to provide an education opportunity you won't want to miss.

To explore the opportunities and challenges that await government agencies and private developers that seek to pursue P3 projects in the state, the Kentucky Chamber and the NCP3P will host The Kentucky P3: Public-Private



"P3s can bring the strengths of the public and private sectors together to effectively solve our country's greatest water system challenge."

NICK ROWE, Senior VP, American Water;
President, Kentucky American Water

Partnerships Conference. This two-day meeting will offer an in-depth look at the new P3 legislation in a series of panel discussions that will cover the basic framework of P3s, address the public and private perspectives on the opportunities available and cover trends in various P3 sectors and many other topics.

"Replacing aging water and wastewater infrastructure is a growing problem for municipal utilities across the country, and Kentucky is not immune," said Nick Rowe, senior vice president for American Water and president of Kentucky American Water. "P3s can bring the strengths of the public and private sectors together to effectively solve our country's greatest water system challenge, and we're excited about the prospect of P3s making a positive impact on Kentucky communities."

The conference will be held October 27-28 at the Griffin Gate Marriott Resort & Spa in Lexington. To register or become a sponsor for this event, visit kychamber.com.

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Workforce needs the most pressing issue facing business, Adkisson says

IN A PRESENTATION to the Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education in mid-July, Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson explained workforce needs are now center stage for the business community as employers are unable to find qualified workers to fill the jobs they have available in the state.

In his presentation, Adkisson referenced the Kentucky Chamber report, Kentucky's Workforce Challenges, that was published last year and examined where the state is and where we need to go to build and sustain the skilled workforce that will make Kentucky globally competitive. As noted in the report, Kentucky employers struggle to find people with the right skills for the jobs they have available while job seekers encounter frustrations as they try to find the right job to match their skills.

Adkisson told lawmakers that adopting approaches to education policy that improve communication between employers and our education systems would be highly beneficial. "Strengthening these partnerships will lead to policies that help schools understand how to better prepare students for success and businesses understand how to effectively use existing programs," he said.

Including "soft skills," very basic skills needed by employees in the workplace like communication, personal responsibility, and teamwork, in the state education system's accountability model, is something Adkisson also encouraged policy makers to consider. He pointed out that the workforce report noted that a 2014 survey that showed improving soft skills among the workforce was the highest-rated need cited by employers – at 27 percent of the respondents.



Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson discussed Kentucky's workforce needs with Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education.

Kim Menke with Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Kentucky, explained to the committee that Toyota struggled to find workers with the right skill set to be successful. The company developed the KY FAME (Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education) program which is a partnership of manufacturers and local education institutions in order to educate, train and employ workers. Students in the program earn an associate degree and two years of relevant work experience with no tuition debt, and manufacturers are directly involved in preparing future workers. "Graduates from our KY FAME program are the best trained and more well-rounded," said Menke.

Chamber and Lane Report form a news partnership

THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER and The Lane Report are pleased to announce a new partnership aimed at providing political news to a business-minded audience.

"When the Kentucky Chamber launched its business news website, The Bottom Line, last year, our goal was to closely monitor the progress and facts of business-related legislation in Kentucky, and deliver behind the scenes knowledge of state government," said

Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson. "The Bottom Line and the Lane Report are speaking to the same audiences and this partnership seems like a natural fit."

News stories, videos and in-depth analyses of legislation will continue to be posted daily at kychamberbottomline.com, however, this exclusive partnership will mean that selected Bottom Line content will also be found on The Lane Report's website, lanereport.com

and in The Lane Report's daily email, The Faster Lane.

"This partnership will allow The Lane Report to have, in essence – a Frankfort bureau," said Lane Report Publisher Dick Kelly. "Bottom Line Managing Editor/Political Reporter Jacqueline Pitts does an excellent job of covering issues that are of great interest to our readers and we're very excited to have access to this caliber of content."

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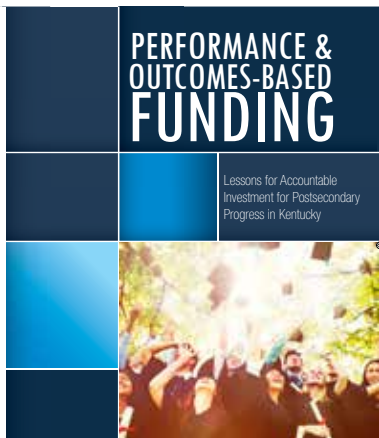
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Symposium focuses on higher education funding in Kentucky

LIKE MANY STATES, Kentucky faces declining support for postsecondary education and competing demands for state resources. Enacted state General Fund appropriations declined 16 percent between FY 2008 and FY 2016 – from \$1.084 billion to \$914 million. The financial burden on students continues to rise, in tuition and student debt. From 2008 to 2016, tuition rose 48 percent at four-year institutions and 35 percent at two-year institutions. Similarly, from 2004 to 2014 the percentage of Kentucky students with loan debt increased from 52 percent to 64 percent, and the average amount of debt increased 82 percent – from \$14,250 to \$25,939. Yet demand for an educated workforce continues to increase. By 2020, 62 percent of jobs in Kentucky will require some postsec-



Download the symposium overview at kychamber.com/higheredfunding



Bill Lear, Kentucky Chamber Chairman elect and Chairman Emeritus of Stoll Keenon Ogden, kicked off the higher education funding symposium on June 29. The event was co-hosted by the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence.

ondary education. But only 33 percent of working-age adults have an associate degree or higher, and only an estimated 42 percent have a high-value postsecondary credential or higher.

Given this context, the question of how the state can best invest in Kentucky's postsecondary education system was brought into sharp focus during the 2016 legislative session as policymakers crafted the state budget for the next two years. Included in the enacted budget was a mandate that 5 percent of postsecondary institutions' operating appropriations in 2018 would be based on a new, comprehensive funding model.

To help inform key stakeholders, a symposium hosted by the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence and

the Kentucky Chamber on June 29, 2016, "Performance & Outcomes-Based Funding: Lessons for Accountable Investment for Postsecondary Progress in Kentucky" provided a forum for an informative discussion on performance and outcomes-based funding models for postsecondary education. The event continued the two organizations' long-standing partnership, bringing together educators, policy experts, business leaders and citizen advocates to discuss critical education policy issues.

Leading experts from Kentucky and around the nation offered a variety of perspectives and timely information about the national context, state-level experience, and challenges with data and analytics.

Chamber and KyCPAs to work with revenue department on tax administration

THE KENTUCKY Department of Revenue and tax practitioner community have joined forces to make it easier for residents and businesses to comply with Kentucky's tax code.

Transparency, efficiency and equity in administering the state's tax code were key tenets of the Kentucky Society of CPAs (KyCPA) and Kentucky Chamber of Commerce's recent legislative propos-

als. While the legislation did not pass, work groups met and already produced a number of changes, including a comprehensive review of the DOR's tax notification system and the creation of a tax practitioner-only hotline.

Later this summer, joint work groups with representatives from Revenue, KyCPA and the Kentucky Chamber will begin to address other issues to help taxpayers and practitioners. Key focus areas are publishing

reliable tax guidance, updating Kentucky's Taxpayer Bill of Rights, and thoroughly reviewing the tax appeals process.

"Providing more guidance is one of our top priorities," said Department of Revenue Commissioner Dan Bork.

Clear tax guidance also impacts Kentucky's economic development efforts. Businesses want to locate, invest and expand in states that have competitive tax rates.

They also want reasonable assurances that tax laws will be administered transparently, efficiently, consistently and equitably.

"To attract and retain more businesses and jobs in Kentucky, it's vitally important that the public and business community have confidence that our tax code will be consistently and fairly enforced," said Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson.

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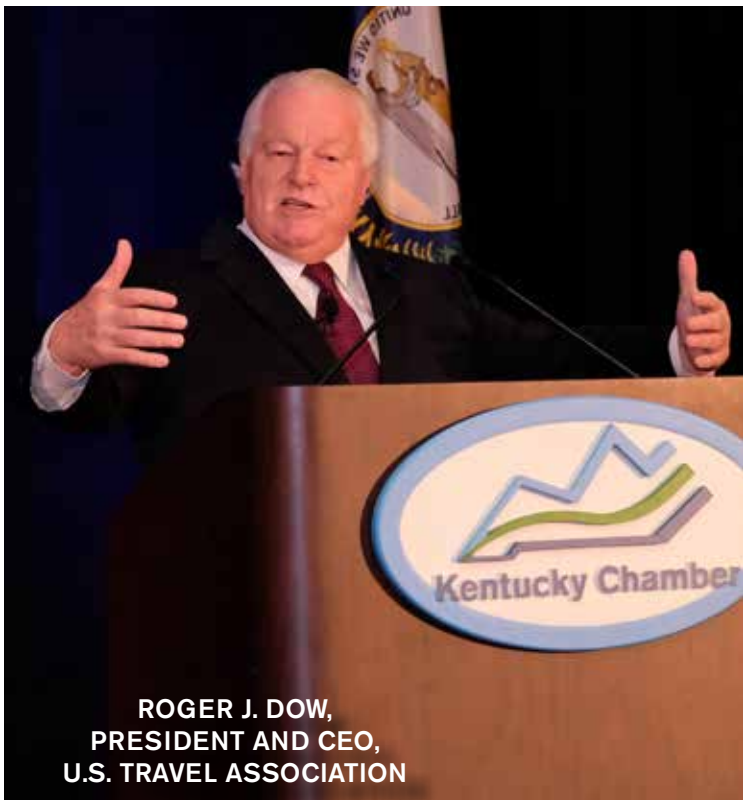
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The Kentucky Chamber's Business Summit brings together diverse ideas to answer the question: What decisions do we have to make to move Kentucky forward? The two-day event brings together business leaders, legislators and educators for a dialogue that explores solutions and inspires change.

Photos by Charity Hedges | hedges-photo.com
Business Summit videos available at youtube.com/kychamber



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Gov. Matt Bevin, center, met with state and local chamber officials during the launch of the Red Tape Reduction website, redtapereduction.com.

RED TAPE: Chamber applauds initiative to reduce, monitor business regulations in state

It may not be a regulation that causes the red tape but instead is the process of implementing the rule that creates the delays and added costs of doing business. It also is important to consider that technology and equipment have changed over time, but regulations might not have been amended to reflect those changes.

The Chamber recognizes the need for smart regulations to ensure workplace safety and protect public health. But with a huge price tag in compliance costs and an increasing number of complex rules, it's clear our regulatory system isn't working the way it should. Many of these regulations simply stifle economic growth and impose unnecessary costs that businesses have to pass along to their customers.

Kentuckians deserve a regulatory system that is fair for everyone, takes into account the views of communities and businesses, evaluates the impact they have on jobs and businesses, and protects our economic and personal freedoms.

By examining our regulatory system, we can take an important step toward ensuring Kentucky has pro-growth policies that will help attract business to our commonwealth.

Don't miss your chance to be heard. Visit the website and submit your ideas. The Governor and his team are committed to seriously reviewing all suggestions and improving the business climate of Kentucky.

Amy Cloud hired as executive director of local chamber professional development group

THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER of Commerce Executives (KCCE), the professional development society for local chambers of commerce in Commonwealth has hired Amy Cloud to serve as the organization's Executive Director. Cloud replaces Ali Crain who has resigned her position to serve in the U.S. Peace Corps.



AMY CLOUD

Cloud was previously the CEO of the Jessamine County Chamber of Commerce in Nicholasville, and immediate past chair of KCCE's board of directors. Cloud has nearly ten years of chamber industry experience and completed programs from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for Organi-

zational Management and the Kentucky Institute for Economic Development.

Cloud was also awarded the 2014 Kentucky Chamber "Executive of the Year" and in the same year completed the Kentucky Accredited Chamber Executive (ACE) program. She is a graduate of the University of Kentucky with a BA in Communications-Marketing & Graphic Design.

"Amy has been a tremendous force in economic development and job attraction in Jessamine County," said KCCE board chair and Hardin County Chamber President, Brad Richardson. "We're looking forward to having her talents and deep knowledge at the disposal of chambers across the Commonwealth."



JOSEPH LYON

Chamber hires membership development manager for western Kentucky region

JOSEPH LYON has been hired by the Kentucky Chamber to serve as a Membership Development Manager for the western Kentucky region. Lyon is a resident of Bowling Green. He previously served as a financial representative at Northwestern Mutual.

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Mandatory business postings updated

MANDATORY UPDATES to employer posters have recently been announced. Effective August 1, 2016, the posters for the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) Notice and the Employee Polygraph Protection Act (EPPA) Notice must be updated. The posters can be purchased through the Kentucky Chamber. Changes include:

- **FLSA:** Effective August 1, 2016, a new FLSA poster is required. The update includes new information about the overtime rule, independent contractors and nursing mothers. Outdated fine information was also removed.
- **EPPA:** Also effective August 1, 2016, a new EPPA poster is required. Outdated fine information was also removed from this poster and contact information was updated.
- **FMLA:** The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) posting was updated in April 2016 to be more reader-friendly.

You can call Lori Jo Goff at 502-848-8727 to place an order, or visit kychamber.com to make an online purchase. Please be aware that poster(s) are expected to ship by mid-August, and the updated postings will include any non-mandatory changes that have been made since the last mandatory update.





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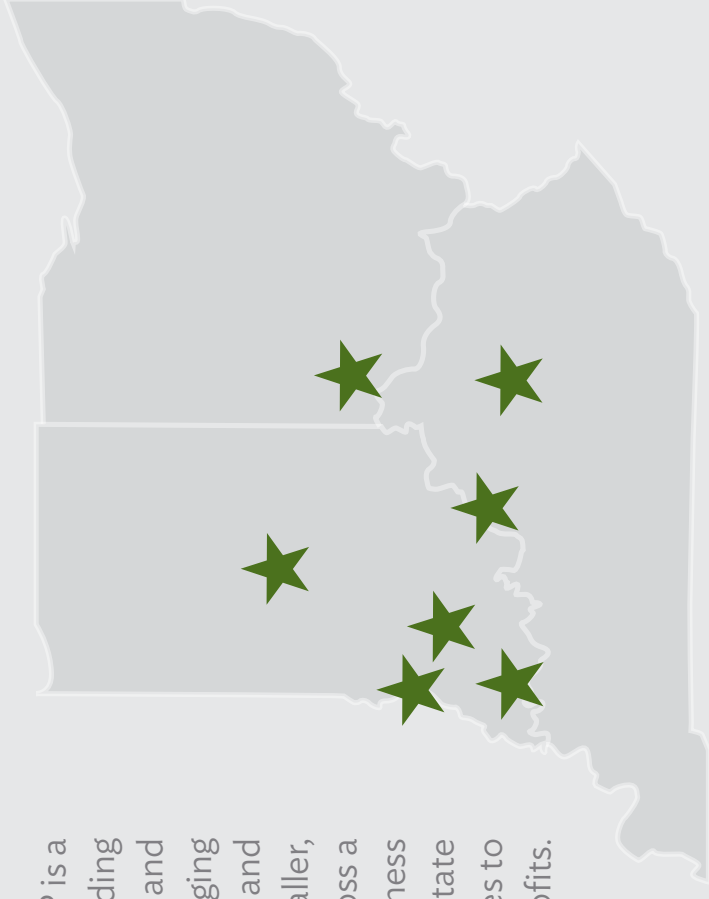
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AUGUST 2016

Chamber to host Congressional Forum



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