



DAVE ADKISSON is president and CEO of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization in Kentucky.

The Chamber represents businesses large and small, from Paducah to Pikeville, and works to advocate a strong business climate in Kentucky. The organization's slogan is "Uniting Business. Advancing Kentucky."

With a staff of 30 professionals, Adkisson works with the Kentucky legislature, the governor, the state's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., and in the court system to advance Kentucky.

During his six years at the Kentucky Chamber, the organization has grown substantially, increased its professional staff to include six lobbyists, expanded its headquarters in Frankfort and placed a major emphasis on governmental relations. In 2007, the Chamber created a strategic plan for the state called the "New Agenda for Kentucky", and the Chamber assembled a panel of Kentucky's top CEO's to conduct a major study of higher education.

In 2009, the Chamber released its 20-year analysis of state spending, called the *Leaky Bucket* report. The subsequent *Leaky Bucket* campaign has helped focus Frankfort's attention on state spending problems, and has helped force some long overdue solutions that will save Kentucky hundreds of millions of dollars. Meanwhile, the report has received substantial attention across the state and even across the country.

Adkisson served as the 2010 Chairman of the Board of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE), an association that represents more than 7,000 chamber of commerce professionals across the country. In addition, he serves on the board of directors of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the nation's largest business association and chairs the U.S. Chamber's education policy committee.

Adkisson regularly contributes commentary for the business community in the state's newspapers and television stations. In 2010, he was featured on PBS's NewsHour with Gwen Ifill and presented the U.S. Chamber's response to a meeting with President Obama.

Adkisson is originally from Owensboro, Ky., where he began his career working for the local chamber of commerce. Later, at age 34, he was elected mayor of Owensboro and re-elected without opposition four years later. He was recruited in 1999 to become president of the Birmingham, Alabama Chamber of Commerce and served nearly six years in that post.

Updated 9/25/11

Adkisson has held several statewide leadership posts in Kentucky, including chairman of the Kentucky Advocates for Higher Education, co-founder of Leadership Kentucky and chairman of the Kentucky Center for Public Issues.

He is a graduate of Georgetown College and holds a master's from Harvard University. He resides in Lexington with his wife Bonnie. They have two grown children. In his freetime, he enjoys running, reading, travel and above all, spending time with his three grandchildren who live in Lexington.