



It's time
to back ti

"Kentucky's Winning Strategy" A UNIFYING VISION FOR OUR COMMONWEALTH'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

The following is an op-ed from Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Ashli Watts.



ASHLI WATTS PRESIDENT & CEO Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

We live in a time where our politics and opinions are driving deeper divisions in our society than we have seen for generations. This is as true in Kentucky as it is across the nation, where we not only anticipate a divisive presidential election next year but a high-profile gubernatorial election in just a few months. Tensions between communities, neighbors, and even families are running high.

The intensity of our disagreements makes it all too easy to forget that we, as Kentuckians, actually agree on quite a lot. I'm talking about issues like good jobs, a strong workforce, healthy communities, a growing population, reliable infrastructure, affordability, economic growth, and quality education. These are priorities shared by most, if not all, Kentuckians. Uniting Kentuckians around these shared priorities is the primary goal of "Kentucky's Winning Strategy" – a new report from the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce that outlines a unifying vision for our Commonwealth's economic future.

This document brings together the ideas of Kentucky's top business leaders for growth and economic prosperity in Kentucky and articulates a clear vision for how to make Kentucky one of the best states in the nation to work, do business, and raise a family.

"Kentucky's Winning Strategy" lists ten focus areas and provides a vision for what success looks like in each area.

For example, one key focus area is our workforce. For decades, low rates of workforce participation have held back Kentucky's economic potential, ranking the seventh lowest in the nation at just 57.8 percent. The business community's vision for success in this area includes a workforce participation rate that is among the top ten states in the nation and a workforce growth rate that outpaces our competitor states.

SEE KENTUCKY'S WINNING STRATEGY, PAGE 2

KENTUCKY CHAMBER WOMEN'S SUMMIT FOCUSES ON Key Role of Women in Business, Politics, Community

In July, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce hosted its 3rd Annual Women's Summit with over 600 attendees, celebrating, recognizing, and sharing the accomplishments of women across the Commonwealth.

During the event,

Elizabeth McCoy

was recognized as

the recipient of the

2023 Woman in

Leadership Award.

Kentucky Chamber's



ELIZABETH MCCOY 2023 WOMAN IN LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNER CEO, Planters Bank

SEE WOMEN IN BUSINESS, POLITICS, COMMUNITY PAGE 2

KENTUCKY CHAMBER FOUNDATION'S WORKFORCE CENTER, KENTUCKY HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP DEDICATED TO Addressing Health Care Workforce Needs



The workforce shortage is having a critical impact across Kentucky's key industries, particularly health care.

With a statewide hospital workforce vacancy rate of 17.1 percent, the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) has provided resources to hire five new regional manager positions dedicated to health care as part of the Kentucky Chamber Foundation's Workforce Center Talent Pipeline Management (TPM[®]) program.

SEE ADDRESSING HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE NEEDS, PAGE 2





Another key focus area is a competitive tax code that encourages population growth and business development. Kentucky has taken great strides in recent years to improve the competitiveness of our tax code, but we envision a future where nonpartisan organizations like the Tax Foundation rank our tax climate as one of the top ten in the nation. Our current ranking is 18th.

Other focus areas include growing the size of our population, building a high-quality K-12 and postsecondary education system, investing in world-class infrastructure, protecting Kentucky's status as an affordable state, fostering a uniquely desirable quality of life, leveraging the economic potential of our signature industries, and strategically securing economic development and wage growth in all corners of the Commonwealth.

Bringing this vision for Kentucky's economic future to life will be a journey, requiring investment and ingenuity from all Kentuckians, but especially our state and local leaders charged with making major policy decisions. Civil disagreements on how to get from point A to point B should be expected – and even encouraged! That's how democracy is supposed to work in the first place.

What matters most is recognizing our numerous points of shared interests and agreeing on a shared vision for Kentucky's future. That's exactly what "Kentucky's Winning Strategy" provides.

As we head into the final months of Kentucky's governor's race and dive straight into the 2024 election cycle, my challenge to all Kentuckians – elected officials and constituents alike – is to ask yourselves, what is your role in turning this vision for Kentucky's future into a reality? The business community stands ready to continue advocating for a stronger Kentucky. But "Kentucky's Winning Strategy" merits a big-tent approach; and we look forward to a robust dialogue with our fellow Kentuckians on how to bring this vision for economic success and prosperity to life.

VIEW FULL REPORT Scan QR code to read the full report.





FROM THE FRONT Addressing Health Care Workforce Needs

The TPM[®] program is designed for businesses to play a larger role in building their talent supply chains. Working with the regional hospital TPM[®] managers, hospitals and health care systems will have the opportunity to join together in a collaborative effort to implement and build talent supply chains, align public and private resources to develop and maintain talent pipelines, share regional best practices to support critical jobs, and more.

"The Kentucky Chamber is committed to supporting health care providers across the Commonwealth during a critical time. By working with KHA to dedicate five TPM[®] project manager positions to the hospital industry, this partnership allows us to take an even deeper dive into exploring short-and long-term solutions to the workforce crisis," said Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Ashli Watts. "We are so proud to partner with the Kentucky Hospital Association to bring real, meaningful change to this industry and ensure Kentucky has the health care workforce to meet our state's needs together."

"This collaboration between KHA and the Kentucky Chamber is crucial in addressing the workforce crisis in hospitals," noted KHA President and CEO Nancy Galvagni. "By encouraging and empowering individuals to choose health care professions, we can ensure the delivery of quality care to our communities, while creating new and rewarding career opportunities for the next generation of health care professionals. We are excited to lead this project to support our members during the current workforce crisis."

Employers can get involved by contacting the Kentucky Chamber Foundation's Hospital TPM® Senior Manager Sara Tracy at stracy@kychamber.com.



kentucky chamber board of directors Meet in Bardstown

The Kentucky Chamber Board of Directors held its quarterly meeting in Bardstown in June, hosted by 2023 Chair Kevin Smith of Beam Suntory. Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear as well as Jim Beam Master Distiller Fred Noe spoke to members of the business community about the impact of the bourbon industry on the Commonwealth.



Kentucky Chamber 2023 Chair Kevin Smith of Beam Suntory, Jim Beam Master Distiller Fred Noe, Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear, Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Ashli Watts



Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear speaks to business leaders from across the Commonwealth



Kentucky Chamber Senior Vice President of Public Affairs Kate Shanks, Representative Keturah Herron, Representative Rebecca Raymer, Legg Strategies Consultant Hilda Legg

Women in Business, Politics, Community

PRESENTED BY **FIFTH THIRD BANK**

McCoy is the CEO of Planters Bank, which just celebrated its 25th anniversary, with 14 financial services offices throughout Kentucky and Tennessee and total assets exceeding \$1.5 billion.

McCoy has been involved in many organizations and groups across the western Kentucky region, the Commonwealth, and the nation. She also served as the Kentucky Chamber's fourth female chair in its 68-year history in 2014 and has continued her involvement since then.

Participants at the event heard from women on a variety of topics throughout the day.

Whitney Austin, a survivor of a mass shooting, was interviewed by Renee Shaw of Kentucky Educational Television on her experiences, the organization she created to address gun violence, and her work with lawmakers in Kentucky and Washington D.C.

A panel including Jennifer Hancock of Volunteers of America Mid-States, Adria Johnson of the Metro United Way of Louisville, and Beth Kelly, Ph.D. of the Kentucky Center for Statistics, moderated by Beth Davisson of the Kentucky Chamber Foundation discussed opportunities for improvement in the workplace and shared advice for supporting other women. As 100,000 women left the workforce in Kentucky during the pandemic citing caring for their children as the reason, Johnson shared that Metro United Way has begun offering child care benefits the same as they would health care benefits.

Ashlee Rich Stephenson, senior political strategist and consultant of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce spoke on the national political environment, trends across the nation and in Kentucky, and the role of female voters and candidates.

She shared data-driven statements on women in elections: women turn out higher than male voters, women don't look at one single issue and decide on a candidate for that one issue, and the views of female voters are the North Star to fundamentally predict how others will vote.

A panel of political leaders in Kentucky, including Rep. Rebecca Raymer, Rep. Keturah Herron, and Hilda Legg of Legg Strategies and moderated by Kate Shanks of the Kentucky Chamber shared their reasons for getting involved in politics, the importance of women being at the table as decisions are being made, and key issues that impact Kentucky.

Legg said confidence is essential to being in politics, which she said can be achieved by mentorship and lifting up other women. "If we don't bring young women into situations, supporting them and encouraging them, we are cutting ourselves short for the future of politics," said Legg.





A conversation with a mass shooting survivor Whitney Austin of Whitney/Strong and Renee Shaw of Kentucky Educational Television



Beth Davisson of the Kentucky Chamber Foundation, Jennifer Hancock of Volunteers of America, Adria Johnson of the Metro United Way of Louisville, and Beth Kelly, Ph.D. of the Kentucky Center for Statistics discuss obstacles for women in the workplace



Colene Elridge of Be More Consulting shared best practices on being "your best, most empowered, happiest self"



2024 Chair Candace McGraw of CVG Airport, 2021 Chair Winston Griffin of Laurel Grocery Company, 2014 Chair Elizabeth McCoy of Planters Bank, Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Ashli Watts, 2022 Chair Diane Medley of MCM CPAs and Advisors, 2004 Chair Charles Lavelle of Dentons



Celebrity Chef Sara Bradley of Freight House Restaurant and Sandra Wilson of the Paducah Chamber of Commerce discuss motherhood in the restaurant industry, the impact of Top Chef on Paducah, and more





2022 IMPACT REPORT HIGHLIGHTS KENTUCKY CHAMBER FOUNDATION'S PROGRESS TO Strengthen Workforce & Improve Educational Attainment & Equity in the Commonwealth

The Kentucky Chamber Foundation has released its first-ever Impact Report, which highlights the organization's comprehensive efforts to advance economic opportunity and workforce development for individuals across the Commonwealth.

The 2022 Impact Report outlines Foundation programs and training initiatives that have been critical in addressing some of Kentucky's most pressing issues, including workforce participation, educational attainment, and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

"Thanks to our many partners and investors across the Commonwealth, the Kentucky Chamber Foundation has made great progress in advancing economic opportunity in our communities. Kentucky is truly leading the way in providing solutions to the most urgent problems impacting our business community today," said Condrad Daniels, President of HJI Supply Chain Solutions and Chair of the Kentucky Chamber Foundation. "However, we know there is still more work to be done, and we remain committed to coalescing Kentucky's business leaders to ensure the brightest future for our state."



READ MORE

Read the full 2022 Kentucky Chamber Foundation Impact Report.

Center for DE&I HOSTS MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESS CERTIFICATION EVENTS IN LOUISVILLE AND LEXINGTON

The Kentucky Chamber Foundation's Center for DE&I hosted two Minority-Owned Business Certification Events in June and July, where over

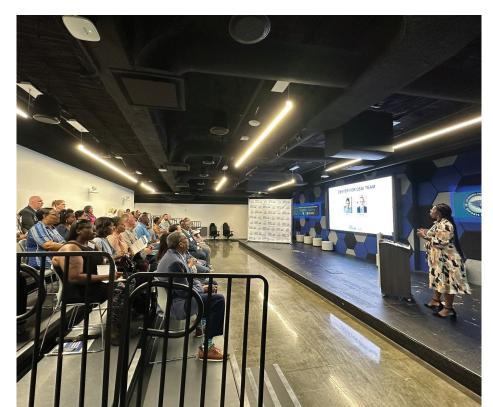




100 businesses learned about the benefits of becoming and working with certified minority-owned businesses as well as the process for each certification.

LEARN MORE

Learn more about events like this at kychamber.com/deicenter.





DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION SUMMIT

October 10, 2023

Kentucky International Convention Center Louisville, Ky.

Learn More | Register kychamber.com/events/education/deisummit **An Inclusive Workforce** What It Is and Why It Matters to Kentucky

September 13, 2023 Embassy Suites by Hilton Lexington/UK Coldstream





In June, the Foundation hosted a graduation ceremony for the Leadership Institute for School Principals Class of 2023

Principals from Across the Commonwealth Chosen for Executive-Level Leadership Training Through the Kentucky Chamber Foundation

The Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Foundation has announced 42 principals from across the Commonwealth that will participate in the Leadership Institute for School Principals Class of 2024.

This executive-level leadership training course, usually reserved for the nation's top CEOs, is offered to Kentucky school principals through the Kentucky Chamber Foundation's partnership with Truist Leadership Institute. The principals were chosen by business leaders and school





Foundation

superintendents that make up the Kentucky Chamber Foundation's Leadership Institute for School Principals Advisory Board.

Elementary, middle, and high school principals from across Kentucky representing both public and private schools applied for the institute, which is provided at no cost thanks to donations from Truist and businesses and business leaders across the state. Over the past 12 years, more than \$3.6 million has been invested in over 500 principals from 104 Kentucky counties since the program began in 2011.

Leadership training provided by: HH Truist Leadership Institute

Below are the principals chosen for the Leadership Institute for School Principals Class of 2024:

- Morgan Adkins, Bourbon County High School, Bourbon County
- Matthew Bartley, Bardstown Middle School, Nelson County
- Dionna Bickley, Pleasant Grove Elementary School, Bullitt County
- Elizabeth Blandford, Foust Elementary School, Daviess County
- Eric Bristol, Freedom Elementary School, Bullitt County
- Brandi Carney, Wellington Elementary School, Jefferson County
- Lesley Chadwell, Zoneton Middle School, Bullitt County
- Julie Chancellor, Doss High School, Jefferson County
- Brian Conley, Magoffin County High School, Magoffin County

- Brittany Joiner, Old Mill Elementary School, Bullitt County
- Richae Logan, Bardstown Alternative School, Nelson County
- Kristi Lynch, North Bullitt High School, Bullitt County
- Travis Manley Montgomery County Area Technology Center, Montgomery County (serves Bath, Menifee, and Montgomery)
- Stan Nicely, Wallins Elementary School, Harlan County
- Jana Osborne, Catlettsburg Elementary School, Boyd County
- Kate Ray, McDaniel Learning Center, Laurel County
- Patrick Reed, Hodgenville Elementary School, LaRue County
- Charlie Cox, Washington County High School, Washington County
- Kimberlee Coyle, Berea Community Elementary School, Madison County
- Elizabeth Dant, Buckner Elementary School, Oldham County
- Ricky Dudgeon, Jr., Ben Johnson Elementary School, Breckinridge County
- Stacey Fish, Henderson South Middle School, Henderson County
- Shanda Gay, Robertson County School, Robertson County
- Courtney Grace, Hazelwood Elementary School, Jefferson County
- Jenna Gray, iLEAD Academy, Carroll County
- Jarrod Hankins, Webster County High School, Webster County
- Brandon Hayes, Irvington Elementary School, Breckinridge County
- Tonya Holt, Overdale Elementary School, Bullitt County
- Audra Hoofnagle, Elkhorn Middle School, Franklin County
- Jodi Johnson, The Academy for Leadership at Millcreek Elementary School, Fayette County

- Will Roberts, North Middle School, Henderson County
- Geco Ross, Paducah Middle School, McCracken County
- Kelly Rowe, Good Shepherd Catholic School, Franklin County
- Lori Sargent, Anne Mason Elementary School, Scott County
- Hannah Scott, Roby Elementary School, Bullitt County
- Heather Scott, Gutermuth Elementary School, Jefferson County
- Travis Scott, Ekron Elementary School, Meade County
- Tami Snyder, Morgan Elementary School, McCracken County
- Jennifer Spencer, Julius Marks Elementary School, Fayette County
- Tyson Steelman, Athens-Chilesburg Elementary School, Fayette County
- Nicholas Williams, Brodhead Elementary School, Rockcastle County

If you are interested in learning more about the program or want information about becoming a donor and supporting a leader in your area, contact Jordan Deschamp-Young at jdyoung@kychamber.com.





Thank you for your investment.

The following is a list of new members of the Kentucky Chamber. Please help us thank these companies for investing in the Chamber's mission by giving them your business.

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BlueOval SK Google Client Services LLC St. Claire Regional Medical Center Wehr Constructors, Inc

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19TH ANNUAL BEST PLACES TO WORK IN KENTUCKY Award Winners Announced

PRESENTED BY



presented by CLEARPATH

The 19th Annual Best Places to Work in Kentucky awards celebration was held in June, which was hosted by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and the Kentucky Society for Human Resource Management (KYSHRM) and presented by ClearPath Mutual Insurance Company. Amgen, Car-Part.com, and Kentucky Educational Development Corporation (KEDC) took the top spots in their respective categories. More than 900 attendees joined in celebration of

the 100 Kentucky companies who were recognized for their commitment to focus, measure, and move their workplace environments toward excellence.

VIEW 2023 WINNERS

View the complete list of winners at **bestplacestoworkkentucky.com/awards/winners.**



KENTUCKY CHAMBER Policy Councils Meet

This summer, the Kentucky Chamber's seven policy councils met to hear about priority issues from legislative leaders and work on developing the Chamber's 2024 legislative agenda.

JOIN TODAY

To join one or more of our policy councils, visit **kychamber.com/policycouncils**.

Mark Your Calendars

August 29-31, 2023 | 39th Annual KYSHRM Conference – Lexington September 6- November 29, 2023 | SHRM Certification Prep Course – Virtual September 13, 2023 | Kentucky Inclusive Workforce Summit – Lexington September 20, 2023 | Kentucky Chamber 77th Annual Meeting Dinner – Louisville October 10, 2023 | 2nd Annual Kentucky Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Summit – Louisville November 2, 2023 | Kentucky Entrepreneur Hall of Fame – Lexington November 13, 2023 | 2024 Legislative Preview Conference – Lexington December 5-6, 2023 | OSHA 10 Hour Voluntary Compliance Course – Lexington December 5-8, 2023 | OSHA 30 Hour Voluntary Compliance Course – Lexington December 6-7, 2023 | Supervising and Managing People – Lexington January 23, 2024 | Kentucky Healthcare Innovation Summit – Louisville February 8, 2024 | 29th Kentucky Chamber Day Dinner – Lexington April 23, 2024 | Kentucky Young Professionals Summit – Louisville August 27-29, 2024 | 40th Annual KYSHRM Conference – Louisville

KENTUCKY

CHAMBER NEWS

For address changes and subscription information, call **502-848-8723**.



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REGISTER OR SPONSOR AN EVENT

To register for an event **visit kychamber.com** or contact **Lori Jo Goff** at **502-848-8727** or **lgoff@kychamber.com**.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for many of these events. To learn more, contact **Andrea Flanders**, Director of Sponsorship Relations, at **502-848-8786** or **aflanders@kychamber.com**.



LOCAL CHAMBERS ATTEND KENTUCKY NIGHT DINNER AT National Convention

In July, the Kentucky Chamber hosted local chambers from across the Commonwealth for dinner in Salt Lake City at the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) annual convention.



Kentucky Chamber Key Investors



Trustee

Addiction Recovery Care Amteck of Kentucky Apex Clean Energy AppHarvest Atlas Air Avantor Performance Materials Bechtel Parsons Bluegrass Bellarmine University **Big Ass Fans** Blackhawk Mining Brenntag Brightview Health Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital CareSource Carespring Healthcare Management, LLC Century Aluminum of Kentucky, LLC CertainTeed Citizens National Bank

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CAN





INDIVIDUAL HEALTH COVERAGE

individuals, gig workers, and 1099 contractors. These plans are designed to fit your Anthem Enhanced Choice is a new option that offers six plans for entrepreneurs, budget and coverage needs in a changing world.

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