



Charles Aull of the Kentucky Chamber, Chamber Agriculture and Equine Policy Council Chair Jim Coleman of Coleman Crest Farm, Caleb Ragland of the American Soybean Association, Jack Mazurak of the Kentucky Distillers Association, and Jan de Beer of Frost Brown Todd

FEDERAL ISSUES SUMMIT EXAMINES  
*National Policies  
Impacting Businesses*

PRESENTED BY 

Nearly 200 business leaders, policy experts, and public officials gathered for the Kentucky Chamber's Federal Issues Summit to take an in-depth look at how federal decisions are shaping Kentucky's economy.

Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Ashli Watts emphasized the Chamber's ongoing federal advocacy efforts, noting that decisions in Washington, D.C. directly shape the state's business environment.

U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell called for bipartisan cooperation to reduce the national debt, maintain economic competitiveness, and ensure Kentucky remains a top trade state.

Neil Bradley of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce showed the economic headwinds caused by rising tariffs and emphasized the need for long-term growth strategies, including AI and energy investment.

Other sessions addressed the impact of shifting immigration policy on Kentucky's labor force, legal changes surrounding DE&I efforts, and trade-related disruptions affecting agriculture and manufacturing.

Throughout the event, speakers stressed the importance of clear, consistent federal policy to support a strong, resilient Kentucky economy.

Read more at [kychamberbottomline.com](http://kychamberbottomline.com).



Neil Bradley of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce



Senator Mitch McConnell and Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Ashli Watts



Kentucky Chamber Board Member LaToi Mayo of Littler

KENTUCKY CHAMBER'S  
2ND ANNUAL ARTIFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMIT  
*Highlights the  
Real-World  
Impact of AI*

PRESENTED BY **Deloitte**.

Business, education, and government leaders gathered in Louisville in July for the Kentucky Chamber's 2nd Annual Artificial Intelligence Summit, presented by Deloitte, to explore how AI is transforming Kentucky's economy and workforce.

Deloitte's Jamia McDonald opened the event by emphasizing the state's growing leadership in responsible AI adoption and encouraging a mindset of bold experimentation. "Last year, AI was approached with caution. This year, every industry is using it, experimenting to understand where and how it fits into their processes," she said. "That mindset encourages curiosity, continuous learning, and bold thinking across every organization represented here today."

SEE KENTUCKY CHAMBER'S 2ND ANNUAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SUMMIT, PAGE 2

GOVERNOR BESHEAR JOINS KENTUCKY  
CHAMBER FORUM TO DISCUSS

*Economy, Workforce, and Federal Policy*

PRESENTED BY **Humana**.

Governor Andy Beshear joined the Kentucky Chamber for a Public Affairs Forum in July, presented by Humana, for a conversation on Kentucky's economic growth.

Beshear spoke on shifting federal policy, warning that proposed Medicaid changes could harm rural hospitals, and that ongoing tariff uncertainty destabilizes Kentucky businesses.

To sustain the Commonwealth's economic momentum, he emphasized the need for reliable energy, stronger supply chains, and strategic infrastructure investments to attract high-growth industries like aerospace, electric vehicles, and aviation.

He also outlined the opportunities and barriers to workforce growth, underscoring the importance of employer involvement in shaping talent pipelines, expanding career and technical education, and increasing support for housing and child care.

Read more at [kychamberbottomline.com](http://kychamberbottomline.com).



Kentucky Chamber Board Chair Scott Davis of Field & Main Bank and Governor Andy Beshear



FROM THE FRONT

# Kentucky Chamber's 2nd Annual Artificial Intelligence Summit

Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg highlighted the city's \$2 million investment in AI, including a new program using drones and real-time data to support emergency response.

Leaders from LG&E and KU, Kentucky Community and Technical College System, Institute for Responsive Government, and Deloitte discussed how Kentucky's energy, logistics, and manufacturing strengths position the state for AI adaptation and growth. The panel shared practical applications, such as streamlining Medicaid services, improving utility storm response, and aligning workforce training with employer needs.

Emphasizing that AI should empower workers, a panel featuring leaders from IBM, GE Appliances, Deloitte, and the University of Louisville's College of Business showcased how companies are leveraging AI to enhance operations. Panelists shared the success they have found in implementing AI-powered sales assistants and generative AI solutions to streamline processes in HR and IT.



## READ MORE

Read the full recap at [kychamberbottomline.com](https://kychamberbottomline.com).



# EMERGING LEADERS EXPLORE GROWTH AND IMPACT AT 2nd Annual Young Professionals Summit

PRESENTED BY **Deloitte.**

More than 200 emerging leaders from across Kentucky gathered in Louisville in July for the Kentucky Chamber's 2nd Annual Young Professionals Summit, presented by Deloitte.

Jordan Harris of Deloitte opened the Summit by underscoring the importance of investing in Kentucky's emerging talent and developing leaders who can shape the future across sectors.

Brandon Pennington of the Harlan Tourist and Convention Commission, was named the 2025 Young Professional of the Year for his innovative leadership in transforming Harlan through tourism and economic development and his dedication to supporting education, youth, and community initiatives.

Elected officials, including Congressman Morgan McGarvey, Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman, Representatives JT Payne and Rachel Roarx, Senator Keturah Herron, and Somerset Mayor Alan Keck, spoke about the vital role of civic engagement. They emphasized the power of public service, authenticity in leadership, and the importance of bringing new voices into government to strengthen communities across the Commonwealth.

Woodford Reserve Master Distiller Elizabeth McCall joined Chamber Executive Committee Member Les Fugate of Brown-Forman for a conversation on leadership, personal growth, and navigating high-profile roles in legacy industries.

Cultural anthropologist and EY strategist Marcie Merriman discussed how Generation Z is reshaping the workplace, and leadership author Vitale Buford Hardin shared strategies for overcoming perfectionism and embracing growth.



## READ MORE

Read the full recap at [kychamberbottomline.com](https://kychamberbottomline.com).





Former Miss Kentucky and Miss USA Tara Conner and Kentucky Chamber Foundation Board Chair Kim Halbauer of Fifth Third Bank

# LEADERSHIP AND LEGACY UNDERSCORE 5th Annual Women's Summit

PRESENTED BY  **FIFTH THIRD**

More than 600 attendees gathered in June for the Kentucky Chamber's 5th Annual Women's Summit, presented by Fifth Third Bank, to celebrate and learn from women shaping Kentucky's future.

Diane Medley of Waterfront Financial Group received the 2025 Woman in Leadership Award for her decades of service and leadership in business and civic life. She reflected on her journey from rural Kentucky to co-founding one of the region's largest CPA firms and emphasized the lasting value of mentorship and empowering others to grow.



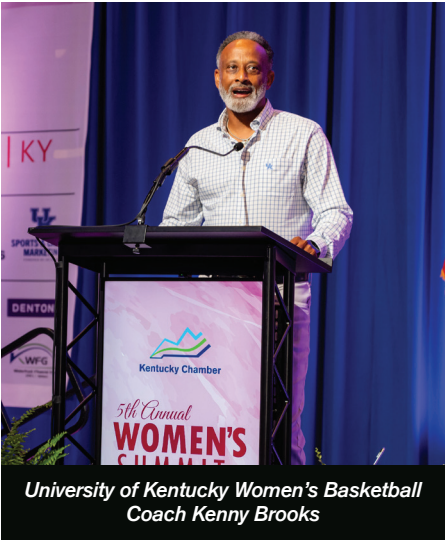
2025 Woman in Leadership Award honoree  
Diane Medley and Kentucky Chamber  
President and CEO Ashli Watts

The Summit featured a conversation with the four female justices now serving on the Kentucky Supreme Court, marking the first time women hold a majority on the bench. They shared insights from their legal careers and discussed the importance of access to justice and supporting the next generation of leaders. Another panel of Kentucky journalists spoke about the evolving role of women in media and the power of community storytelling.

University of Kentucky Women's Basketball Coach Kenny Brooks shared that coaching women has taught him to lead by listening, communicate with intention, and build trust as the foundation for growth. Jennifer Barber of Frost Brown Todd LLP discussed navigating the challenges of being the first in her role and the importance of mentorship in opening doors for others. Former Miss USA Tara Conner emphasized the power of honesty in healing and leadership, while chef Damaris Phillips encouraged attendees to redefine success by sharing the spotlight and creating space for others to lead.



Kate Shanks of the Kentucky Chamber, Kentucky Supreme Court Chief Justice Debra Hembree Lambert, and Justices Angela McCormick Bisig, Pamela Goodwine, and Michelle Keller



University of Kentucky Women's Basketball  
Coach Kenny Brooks



Jennifer Barber of Frost Brown Todd



Celebrity chef and author Damaris Phillips

READ MORE

Read the full recap at [kychamberbottomline.com](https://kychamberbottomline.com).

**79<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

presented by **DENTONS**

October 14, 2025 | Louisville Marriott Downtown

The Kentucky Chamber is on the forefront of issues that affect all Kentucky businesses – large and small. Please gather with us to celebrate the successes of the year!

Register Today!



[KYCHAMBER.COM/EVENTS/ANNUALMEETING](https://KYCHAMBER.COM/EVENTS/ANNUALMEETING)

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INDUCTION CELEBRATION  
PRESENTED BY **JPMorganChase**

NOVEMBER 12, 2025 | CENTRAL BANK CENTER | LEXINGTON  
4:30 p.m. Reception | 6:00 p.m. Dinner and Program

**DR. LARRY BENZ**  
Founder  
Confluent Health



**WILLIAM P. BUTLER**  
Chairman of the Board  
Corporex



**ALICE K. HOUSTON**  
Founder  
HJI Supply Chain Solutions



**RICK KUEBER**  
Founder and CEO  
Glow Brands



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# KENTUCKY CHAMBER HOSTS DINNER HONORING *Congressman Brett Guthrie*

PRESENTED BY  **Arnold  
Ventures**

Kentucky Chamber hosted a dinner in August, presented by Arnold Ventures, honoring Congressman Brett Guthrie, who was recently named Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. During the event, Senate President Robert Stivers, House Majority Caucus Chair Suzanne Miles, Kentucky Chamber Board Chair Scott Davis of Field & Main Bank, and others spoke on Congressman Guthrie's thoughtful and balanced approach to leadership and his commitment to advancing priorities critical to our future.



Arnold Ventures President and CEO Kelli Rhee and Congressman Brett Guthrie



Kentucky Chamber Board Chair Scott Davis, Charlie Anderson of Arnold Ventures, Kelli Rhee of Arnold Ventures, Congressman Brett Guthrie, House Majority Caucus Chair Suzanne Miles, and Senate President Robert Stivers



In June, the Foundation hosted a graduation ceremony for the Leadership Institute for School Principals Class of 2025

# FORTY PRINCIPALS GRADUATE FROM KENTUCKY CHAMBER FOUNDATION'S *Leadership Institute for School Principals*

In June, 40 principals across Kentucky completed the Kentucky Chamber Foundation's Leadership Institute for School Principals—a year-long, executive-level training program in partnership with the Truist Leadership Institute.

Now in its 13th year, the program has trained over 600 principals, impacting schools in 112 counties and more than 2.9 million students. Thanks to contributions from Truist and the Kentucky business community, the \$18,000 per-participant training is offered at no cost.

During the graduation ceremony, principals Jameelah Henderson of Jefferson County and James Hood of Rowan County shared how the experience renewed their passion and built lasting peer connections.



**Leadership Institute  
for School Principals**

Powered by



Board Co-chairs Rob Clayton and Rich Maddux thanked the class and business partners for investing in Kentucky's future.

"This program has always been about helping our school leaders. It's about giving them the tools that would help them lead their staff, develop their staff, and most importantly, develop their kids," Maddux said.

Leadership training provided by:  **Truist Leadership Institute**

*Scan the QR code to support the Leadership Institute for School Principals*

Learn more at [www.principalsleadky.com](http://www.principalsleadky.com)



SCAN TO DONATE



KENTUCKY CHAMBER VISITS  
CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO

# Advocate for Pro-Business Policy

Kentucky Chamber Chair Scott Davis and Chamber leaders met with members of Kentucky's congressional delegation in May to advocate for making provisions from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act permanent, to share concerns about the uncertainty of tariffs and trade policies impacting Kentucky businesses, and discuss workforce priorities.

LEARN MORE

Learn more about the Chamber's federal advocacy efforts at [kychamberbottomline.com](http://kychamberbottomline.com).



Kentucky Chamber Board Chair Scott Davis, Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Ashli Watts, Chamber SVP of Public Affairs Kate Shanks, and Chamber Director of Public Affairs John Hughes at the U.S. Capitol



Senator Mitch McConnell



Congressman Hal Rogers



Congressman Brett Guthrie



Congressman Morgan McGarvey



Congressman James Comer



Congressman Andy Barr



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# 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.

## CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE

The Christ Hospital

## ADVISOR

Arnold Ventures  
Global Laser Enrichment, LLC  
Strada Education Network

## TRUSTEE

BRW

## EQUITY PARTNER

Berea College  
Perfetti Van Melle

## STAKEHOLDER

502 Hemp Wellness Center  
Aerospace Composites Solutions  
Anchorage Middletown Fire & EMS  
Brighton Center, Inc.  
Community Action Kentucky  
Flippin Loan, LLC  
Inspire Medical Staffing  
Jones Walker LLP  
Lithgow Industries, Inc.  
Louisville Automotive Shop  
MAG Industrial, LLC  
Matrix Integration  
Modern Foods, Inc.  
More Than A Bakery  
Mountain Movers Theatre Company  
Nature's Touch, Inc.  
Paul Miller Autoplex  
People's Rural Telephone  
Phillip Minton Custom Painting  
ProDesign Engineering  
Renfro Valley Entertainment Center  
The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism

## KENTUCKY CHAMBER NEWS

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



# KENTUCKY CHAMBER RECOGNIZES INAUGURAL Fellowship for Civic Leadership Class

The Kentucky Chamber of Commerce recognized its inaugural class of the Fellowship for Civic Leadership program in August.

The program aims to strengthen civic engagement across the Commonwealth and encourage more business-minded individuals to pursue public service. Throughout the program, participants engaged with elected officials, including U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell, members of the General Assembly, local elected officials, and Kentucky Chamber members. They also gained technical knowledge from policy experts and campaign professionals and had the opportunity to build connections with peers from across Kentucky.



Rep. Adam Bowling, Sen. Amanda Mays Bledsoe, Richmond City Commissioner Mendi Goble, Franklin County Judge-Executive Michael Mueller, and Rep. Erika Hancock



UpONE Insights Founder and CEO Robert Blizzard

## LEARN MORE

Learn more about the Fellowship for Civic Leadership at [kychamber.com/fellowshippcivicleadership](https://kychamber.com/fellowshippcivicleadership).

# Mark Your Calendars

- September 16, 2025 | OSHA Recordkeeping and Reporting – Lexington
- September 17, 2025 | OSHA Forklift – Train the Trainer – Lexington
- October 14, 2025 | 79th Annual Meeting Dinner – Louisville
- October 29, 2025 | 35th Annual Kentucky Workers' Compensation Seminar – Lexington
- November 12, 2025 | Kentucky Entrepreneur Hall of Fame – Lexington
- November 17, 2025 | Legislative Preview Conference – Lexington
- December 9-10, 2025 | OSHA 10-Hour General Industry Voluntary Compliance Course – Lexington
- December 9-12, 2025 | OSHA 30-Hour General Industry Voluntary Compliance Course – Lexington
- December 11, 2025 | Supervising and Managing People Seminar – Lexington
- January 8, 2026 | Kentucky Chamber Day Dinner – Lexington

## REGISTER OR SPONSOR AN EVENT

To register for an event visit [kychamber.com](https://kychamber.com) or contact **Lori Jo Goff** at **502-848-8727** or [lgoff@kychamber.com](mailto: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](mailto:aflanders@kychamber.com).

### THE BOTTOM LINE NEWS

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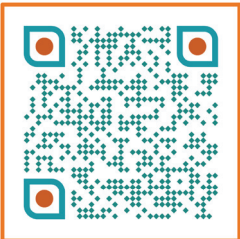


# 2025 BEST PLACES TO WORK IN KENTUCKY

## Rankings Announced

PRESENTED BY  **CHI Saint Joseph Health**  
A member of CommonSpirit  **Kentucky Chamber**  **KYSHRM**  ASSOCIATION OF  
SRM  
BETTER WORKPLACES  
BETTER WORKERS

Amgen, Community Financial Services Bank, and Wehr Constructors, Inc. were named the top winners in the large, medium, and small business categories of the 2025 Best Places to Work in Kentucky program in May. The rankings, announced at a ceremony hosted by the Kentucky Chamber and KYSHRM, recognize 100 companies for creating outstanding workplace environments. Winners were selected based on employee survey results and workplace practices. The event drew more than 1,000 attendees and highlighted employers' critical role in improving the quality of life and strengthening the workforce across the Commonwealth.



WINNERS

### VIEW 2025 WINNERS

Scan the QR Code or view the complete list of ranked winners at [bestplacestoworkkentucky.com/awards/winners](https://bestplacestoworkkentucky.com/awards/winners).

## Kentucky Chamber Key Investors

### Commonwealth Partner



### Chairman's Circle



### Champion



### Advisor



### Trustee

- |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| Addiction Recovery Care<br>AESC<br>AMCOR<br>Americans for Prosperity<br>Amteck of Kentucky, Inc.<br>Arkema Inc.<br>Bacon Farmer Workman/Marcum Engineering<br>Bechtel Parsons Bluegrass<br>Bellarmine University<br>Big Ass Fans<br>Blackhawk Mining LLC<br>Brady Worldwide Inc<br>BRW<br>Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital<br>CareSource<br>Century Aluminum of Kentucky, LLC<br>CertainTeed<br>Chrysalis Ventures, LLC<br>Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International<br>Airport / CVG | Citizens National Bank<br>Clark's Pump N Shop<br>Clearpath Specialty<br>Coca-Cola Consolidated<br>Commonwealth Credit Union<br>Community Trust Bancorp, Inc.<br>Computer Services, Inc. (CSI)<br>Corning Incorporated<br>CSX Transportation<br>Dan-O's Seasoning<br>DBL Law<br>Deaconess Hospital<br>Dean Dorton<br>Deloitte Consulting<br>Diageo North America<br>Dismas Charities<br>Domtar Paper Co., LLC<br>Double Kwik<br>East and Westbrook Construction Co. Inc.<br>EDF Renewables | English Lucas Priest & Owsley, LLP<br>Family Wealth Group, LLC<br>Farmers National Bank of Danville<br>Field & Main Bank<br>Fischer Homes<br>Four Rivers Nuclear Partnership<br>Galt House Hotel & Suites<br>Geronimo Power<br>Gravity Diagnostics<br>Gray Construction<br>Harrison Memorial Hospital<br>Home of the Innocents<br>Hyster Yale Materials Handling<br>Johnson & Johnson Services, Inc.<br>Kentucky Academy of Family Physicians<br>Kentucky League of Cities, Inc.<br>Kentucky United Methodist Childrens Home<br>Kimball International<br>Log Still Distillery<br>Louisville Water Company | MakeMyMove<br>Marwood Land Company<br>Merck<br>Merrick Hardwoods, Inc<br>Mississippi Lime<br>Mubea North America<br>National Corvette Museum<br>NextEra Energy Resources, LLC<br>Novelis, Inc.<br>NuLease Medical Solutions<br>Park Community Credit Union<br>Partners for Rural Impact<br>Pathways, Inc.<br>Pinnacle Treatment Centers<br>Planters Bank, Inc.<br>Republic Bank<br>Republic National Distributing Company<br>Reynolds American<br>Robert W. Baird Co. Incorporated<br>Sandy's Racing and Gaming | Savion LLC<br>Scotty's Contracting & Stone LLC<br>Somerset Hardwood Flooring<br>Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.<br>Steel Technologies, Inc.<br>Stock Yards Bank and Trust<br>Stride Learning Company<br>TC Energy<br>T.J. Regional Health<br>Tandem Public Relations LLC<br>Tennessee Valley Authority<br>Thoroughbred Architects & Engineers<br>Thoroughbred Hospitality Group<br>Toyota Boshoku America<br>Verizon<br>Walker Construction & Materials, LLC<br>Whitaker Bank, Inc.<br>Wonderschool<br>WSP USA |
|---|---|---|---|--|



# SAVE MORE in 2025



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Small business plans  
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Anthem of Kentucky.



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Clearpath Specialty is  
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employees. All members  
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guidelines will receive a  
**10% discount.**



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technology, and onsite  
printing services. Discounts  
apply to in-store and online  
purchases with free next day  
shipping on \$50+ orders.



**CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE**

**Mea Durham** — [mdurham@kychamber.com](mailto:mdurham@kychamber.com) | (502) 848-8723 | [kychamber.com/membersavings](http://kychamber.com/membersavings)



# NEWS

AUGUST 2025

## CHAMBERS CONVENES LEADERS TO SHAPE

# Kentucky's Future