





Mrs. Deirdre Lyons and Dr. Mark Lyons of Alltech speak to business leaders during the Kentucky Chamber open house reception

## **KENTUCKY CHAMBER CELEBRATES** Newly-Renovated Office

In April, the Kentucky Chamber hosted a reception to celebrate the completion of its newly-renovated office, recognize members for their generous sponsorships, and thank the business community for their continued support of the Chamber.

During the reception, Mrs. Deirdre Lyons and Dr. Mark Lyons paid tribute to the new Kentucky Chamber lobby honoring the late Dr. Pearse Lyons, founder and president of Alltech. The Dr. Pearse Lyons Hall of Entrepreneurs tells the story of Dr. Lyons and recognizes many of Kentucky's notorious entrepreneurs.

### SEE NEWLY-RENOVATED OFFICE, PAGE 2



Alltech President and CEO Dr. Mark Lyons, Alltech Co-Founder and Director of Corporate Image and Design Deirdre Lyons, Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Ashli Watts, Kentucky Chamber Chair Diane Medley, MCM CPAs and Advisors

## U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell discusses federal issues, receives "congressional mvp award"

In April, Kentucky U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell spoke with Kentucky business leaders about the top issues at the national level at an exclusive Kentucky Chamber Public Affairs Forum in Louisville.

The conversation with Leader McConnell, moderated by CNN Contributor and RunSwitch PR Co-Founder Scott

### CHAMBER RECOGNIZES 11 LEGISLATORS AS MVPs of the 2022 General Assembly

The 2022 General Assembly saw monumental progress on several critical priorities of the Kentucky business community. Following the legislative session, the Kentucky Chamber announced the recognition of 11 legislators who displayed conspicuous actions to ensure Kentucky's growth, strengthen businesses across the Commonwealth, and improve competitiveness throughout the state.

The pro-growth policies passed during the 2022 legislative session saved Kentucky businesses an estimated \$1.281 billion, roughly \$19,000 for each employer in the Commonwealth— marking the third year in a row of savings equal to more than a billion dollars for the business community— thanks to the General Assembly and the Chamber's aggressive advocacy.

### SEE MVPS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PAGE 2

Jennings, included discussions about the Ukraine crisis, energy policy, the nation's business climate, and more.

At the event, Leader McConnell was also awarded the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce "Congressional MVP Award" for his work on business issues in Washington, D.C. The Kentucky Chamber has historically awarded Louisville Sluggers to state legislators for their effort in the legislative session and "going to bat for business."

Leader McConnell is the first member of Kentucky's federal delegation to receive a Chamber MVP Award.

"It is a pleasure to join the Kentucky Chamber and an honor to receive their first ever Congressional MVP Award. I'm proud to work to help the Commonwealth punch above its weight at the federal level. I deeply appreciate the Chamber's work on behalf of the Bluegrass, and I look forward to continued partnership to increase investment and job opportunities in our state," said Senator McConnell.

"Leader McConnell is a true champion for crucial policies that help advance and protect Kentucky and the United States. In recent years, he has shown incredible leadership to secure a historic bipartisan infrastructure package, remove harmful tariffs, and fight burdensome regulations. The Kentucky Chamber is thrilled to present our first Congressional MVP Award to Leader McConnell, a constant champion for Kentucky businesses," said Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Ashli Watts.

"The U.S. Chamber is proud to call you a partner and ally on Capitol Hill," U.S. Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Suzanne P. Clark said in a speech at the event, adding that Leader McConnell was "a ballast against anti-business and anti-free market forces."



### **READ MORE** Read more on **kychamberbottomline.com**.



## FROM THE FRONT MVPs of the 2022 General Assembly

"Looking back over this session, it is clear the legislature had a focus on growing our economy, improving our tax code and implementing solutions to our workforce crisis," said Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Ashli Watts. "Because of this, the 2022 General Assembly was easily one of the most successful for Kentucky businesses in recent history and will help make Kentucky more competitive. The Kentucky Chamber applauds the legislature and looks forward to working together to see the Commonwealth reach our true economic potential."

Recipients of the 2022 Kentucky Chamber MVP Award showed strong leadership for the business community by sponsoring or carrying Kentucky Chamber priority legislation to final passage, showing leadership on passage of critical legislation to improve Kentucky, or by taking hard votes in defense of business.

### Below are the legislators selected for this year's MVP awards and highlights of how they went to bat for the business community this session:

• Senate President Robert Stivers played an important role in ensuring passage of House Bill 499, the Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership, including testifying on the bill in Senate committee. Additionally, he advocated for Chamber priority legislation including House Bill 8, legislation to make Kentucky's tax code more competitive.

• House Speaker David Osborne played an important role in supporting Chamber priority legislation including House Bill 499, the Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership, as well as House Bill 8, legislation to make Kentucky's tax code more competitive.

• Senate Majority Leader Damon Thayer was instrumental in ensuring passage of top Chamber priorities including unemployment insurance reform, the Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership, tax reform, and more.

• **Rep. Russell Webber** championed two top priorities for the Chamber including House Bill 4, legislation to reform Kentucky's unemployment insurance (UI) system, and House Bill 144, legislation to freeze the unemployment insurance tax rate and allocate money to replenish the state's UI fund, which will save businesses \$75 per employee in 2022.

• **Rep. Samara Heavrin** championed House Bill 499, legislation to create the Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership as a way to help address workforce issues across the Commonwealth. This top priority of the Kentucky Chamber had over 60 co-sponsors.

• **Sen. Wil Schroder** carried House Bill 4, legislation to reform Kentucky's unemployment insurance system, on the Senate floor and heard several priority bills as chair of the Senate Economic Development, Tourism, and Labor Committee. He also sponsored a resolution calling for an analysis of statesponsored workforce programs, a recommendation of the Chamber, that was funded in the biennial budget.

• **Rep. Jason Petrie** championed House Bill 8, the Chamber's top strategic priority of the 2022 session, legislation to reform Kentucky's tax code by reducing the personal income tax and broadening the sales tax base to make the Commonwealth more competitive for growth.

• **Rep. Adam Koenig** carried House Bill 606, legislation to enact sports wagering in Kentucky, which passed the House for the first time this year.

• **Rep. Jonathon Dixon** championed House Bill 708, legislation that provides new resources to support working families and requires a study of benefits cliffs in Kentucky.

• **Sen. Ralph Alvarado** championed Senate Bill 11, legislation to modernize Kentucky's assisted living social model, and played an instrumental role on other issues pertaining to health care in Kentucky.

• **Sen. Whitney Westerfield** championed Senate Bill 90, legislation that will create a pilot program to help address the role addiction and mental health disorders have in criminal activity to get people into recovery programs and back into the workforce.





View Kentucky Chamber's 2022 Results for Business publication online at **kychamber.com**, detailing top priorities of the business community that passed, scoring votes of legislators on important issues, and showing missed opportunities.



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## FROM THE FRONT Newly-Renovated Office





Jay Million of Million Architecture, Steve Branscum of Branscum Construction, and Jonathan Smith of Branscum Construction served as contractors for the Chamber's building renovation



Kentucky Chamber Incoming Chair Kevin Smith, Beam Suntory



Kentucky Chamber Competitiveness Council Chair Jay Ingle, Jackson Kelly, and Kentucky Chamber Board Member Allen Carter, Silver Springs Farm and Eqwine and Vineyard





ClearPath Mutual President Jeff Borkowski and ClearPath Mutual CFO Jillian Taylor



## **Kentucky Chamber Board of Directors MEET IN FRANKFORT**

The Kentucky Chamber Board of Directors met in April at the Kentucky Chamber office. Business leaders heard from Senate President Robert Stivers and House Speaker David Osborne as they provided an update on the 2022 General Assembly, highlighted pro-business policies that passed, and discussed what comes next.



Kentucky Chamber Chair Diane Medley, MCM CPAs and Advisors, provides an update to the board of directors



Senate President Robert Stivers and House Speaker David Osborne discuss the 2022 legislative session



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

The Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Foundation has announced 48 principals from across the Commonwealth that will participate in the Leadership Institute for School Principals Class of 2023.

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 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 supported by generous donations from businesses across the state. More than \$3.5 million has been spent on over 500 principals from 100 Kentucky counties since the program began in 2011.

The Truist Leadership Institute has customized a program to meet the specific leadership development needs of school administrators. Principals will attend classes during the summer at the Truist Leadership Institute in Greensboro, North Carolina, and will participate in follow-up sessions in the fall and early next year in Kentucky.

"The business community takes great pride in supporting the Leadership Institute for School Principals," said Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Ashli Watts. "Employers recognize the value of effective leadership in the private sector, and the same is true for schools. As the foundation for our future workforce, we think it is important to give our Kentucky schools every opportunity for success."

### Below are the principals chosen for the Leadership Institute for School Principals Class of 2023:

- Kelly Smith, North Pointe Elementary School, Boone County
- Jennifer Hickey, RA Jones Middle School, Boone County
- Kerry Bocook, Charles Russell Elementary School, Boyd County
- Betty Davis, Brooks Elementary School, Bullitt County
- Joe Pat Lee, Bullitt Central High School, Bullitt County
- Tim Ridley, Mt. Washington Middle School, Bullitt County
- Brandy Howard, Old Mill Elementary School, Bullitt County
- Hannah Scott, Roby Elementary School, Bullitt County
- Benjamin Wilson, North Butler Elementary School, Butler County
- Malissa Thomas, Caldwell County Elementary School, Caldwell County
- Katherine LaDuke, Ramsey Middle School, Jefferson County
- Michael Guy, Seneca High School, Jefferson County
- Hollie Smith, Western Middle School for the Arts, Jefferson County
- Justin Arms, Johnson Central High School, Johnson County
- Ashley Lemaster, Porter Elementary School, Johnson County
- Travis Gay, LaRue County High School, LaRue County
- Brent Collins, Wyan-Pine Grove Elementary School, Laurel County
- Edward Dixon, Louisa East Elementary School, Lawrence County
- Sarah Anthony, South Livingston Elementary School, Livingston County
- Rex Booth, Russellville High School, Logan County





- Aaron McClung, Caldwell County High School, Caldwell County
- Tiffany Hicks, Bellevue Middle / High School, Campbell County
- Natalie Brown, Carroll County High School, Carroll County
- Nicole Poindexter, Hopkinsville Middle School, Christian County
- Sara Johnson, Indian Hills Elementary School, Christian County
- Catherine Vannatter, Locust Trace AgriScience Center, Fayette County
- Tyler Reed, Frankfort High School, Franklin County
- Antonio Sherrill, Mayfield Middle School, Graves County
- Brooke Risinger, A.B. Chandler Elementary School, Henderson County
- Ginger Ashby, Thelma B. Johnson Early Learning Center, Henderson County
- Erika Walker, Audubon Traditional Elementary School, Jefferson County
- Conni Strange, Eisenhower Elementary School, Jefferson County
- Brooke Schilling, Jeffersontown Elementary School, Jefferson County
- Elizabeth Palmer, Medora Elementary School, Jefferson County

\*Listing is alphabetized by county

- Beth Mullins, Berea Community Elementary School, Madison County
- Amanda Heaton, Silver Creek Elementary School, Madison County
- Katie Mason, Charles Straub Elementary School, Mason County
- Joe Pfeffer, Mason County Middle School, Mason County
- Jennifer Scism, Lone Oak Elementary School, McCracken County
- Kelli Abney, Menifee County School District, Menifee County
- Joshua DeWar, Bardstown High School, Nelson County
- Timothy Molton, Nicholas County Middle/High School, Nicholas County
- Brandon Blackburn, Pikeville High School, Pike County
- Jon Salyer, Garth Elementary School, Scott County
- Meagan Willhite, Stamping Ground Elementary, Scott County
- Jennifer Oyler, South Todd Elementary School, Todd County
- Ben Frasier, Plano Elementary School, Warren County
- Matt Deaton, South Warren Middle School, Warren 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.

### Learn more at www.principalsleadky.com

SCAN TO DONATE

## KENTUCKY CHAMBER FOUNDATION LAUNCHES FAIR CHANCE ACADEMY TO BRIDGE GAP BETWEEN Employers and Individuals in Recovery from Substance Use Disorders

The Kentucky Chamber Foundation is continuing to address the state's substance use disorder crisis and help Kentuckians in recovery re-enter the workforce. As part of these efforts, the Chamber Foundation's Workforce Recovery Program launched its inaugural Fair Chance Academy, with 15 companies selected for the first cohort starting in May.

This initiative is the first of its kind in the state and will provide businesses and employers with valuable training, information, and resources to foster transformational employment opportunities for individuals in recovery from substance use disorders who are ready to re-enter the workforce.

"Employment is a critical component of long-term recovery, and the business community has an important role to play in helping individuals return to the workforce and reducing stigma around recovery in the workplace," said Morgan Kirk, Director of the Kentucky Chamber Foundation's Workforce Recovery Program. "We're excited to begin offering this training to help employers transform lives, and we encourage businesses of all sizes and across all industries to apply."

"We see a real opportunity to make a positive impact across Kentucky through the Fair Chance Academy," said Van Ingram, Executive Director of the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy. "More than 1,900 Kentuckians died from drug overdoses in 2020. That's a 49% increase from 2019. Certifying employers as 'fair chance' can provide stable employment for someone, which is a critical component of long-term

recovery. This can provide Kentuckians with the purpose and motivation they might need to stay in remission and get their lives back."

FAIR CHANCE

EST. 2022

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"Substance use impacts so many aspects of a person's life, including employment. We in the business community want to be part of the solution. Participating in the Fair Chance Academy gives businesses the knowledge, tools, and resources to be that solution," said Patrick Bryant, Recruitment Manager at AppHarvest.

The Fair Chance Academy is part of the Kentucky Chamber Foundation's Kentucky Transformational Employment Program, which launched last year and provides a pathway for employers to help more Kentuckians reach long-term recovery from substance use disorders while supporting fair chance employment.



### LEARN MORE

Learn more at kentuckycomeback.com/fairchanceacademy.

Local Chambers More Engaged



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Increasing local chamber engagement on policy issues has been a priority of the Kentucky Chamber in recent years. During the 2022 General Assembly, over 30 local chambers from across the Commonwealth joined the Kentucky Chamber in support of pro-business legislation alongside many other businesses, organizations, and groups.

> "The Kentucky Chamber provides a very beneficial service to local Chambers by providing us information on what's going on in Frankfort. With our community being located several hours from Frankfort, it's helpful to have insight into what's going on from the Chamber staff. We know they are in the Capitol every day representing the interest of businesses from across the state. They are only a phone call away and we appreciate the relationship we have"

– **Sandra Wilson** Paducah Chamber of Commerce President



## *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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### KENTUCKY CHAMBER NEWS

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



Pictured above: Kentucky Chamber's 2022 Board of Directors.

## **Nominations** FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS DUE

The nomination process is now open for Kentucky Chamber Board of Directors seats beginning on Oct. 1, 2022. Nominations should contain name, title, organization, city and a brief statement of leadership activities.

For more information, or to nominate an individual, contact Candy Keeton at ckeeton@kychamber.com or 502-848-8741. Nominations are due by May 20, 2022.

## Mark Your Calendars

May 24-25, 2022 | OSHA 10-Hour General Industry Voluntary Compliance – Louisville May 24-27, 2022 | OSHA 30-Hour General Industry Voluntary Compliance – Louisville May 26, 2022 | 9th Annual Navigating Sales and Use Tax in Kentucky – Louisville June 9, 2022 | 18th Annual Best Places to Work in Kentucky – Lexington June 13, 2022 | Golf Invitational at Valhalla – Louisville June 15-16, 2022 | Supervising and Managing People – Louisville June 21, 2022 | 4th Annual Kentucky Recovery in the Workplace Conference – Lexington July 11, 2022 | 2nd Annual Women's Summit – Lexington July 13, 2022 | OSHA's Respiratory Protection: Train the Trainer & Program – Lexington July 14, 2022 | OSHA Lockout/Tagout Train the Trainer – Lexington



July 21, 2022 | Remaining Union Free – Lexington

Aug. 10-11, 2022 | 25th Annual Kentucky Environmental Permitting & Reporting Conference – Lexington

Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 2022 | 38th Annual KYSHRM Conference – Louisville

Sept. 7- Nov. 30, 2022 | Virtual SHRM Certification Prep Course – Virtual

- Sept. 14, 2022 | 76th Kentucky Chamber Annual Meeting Louisville
- Sept. 28, 2022 | OSHA Recordkeeping and Reporting Louisville
- Sept. 29, 2022 | OSHA Forklift: Train the Trainer Louisville
- Nov. 14, 2022 | 2023 Kentucky Legislative Preview Conference Lexington
- Nov. 16, 2022 | Kentucky Entrepreneur Hall of Fame Louisville
- Dec. 6-7, 2022 | OSHA 10-Hour General Industry Voluntary Compliance Lexington
- Dec. 6-9, 2022 | OSHA 30-Hour General Industry Voluntary Compliance Lexington

### **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**.



## PROGRESS MADE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE PRIORITIES in 2022 Session

In an effort to ensure Kentucky is not incarcerating those who are struggling, the 2022 General Assembly gave passage to legislation that will ensure behavioral and mental health assessments for those with low-level offenses that could ensure they get the help they need rather than being incarcerated.

Senate Bill 90, sponsored by Sen. Whitney Westerfield, will set up a pilot program in at least 10 Kentucky counties to require a mental and/or behavioral health assessment early on in the process when an individual is charged with a Class D felony.

With the assessment, performed by a provider from a rotating list, the provider would decide if treatment was a more suitable solution than incarceration to help someone with substance use disorder. Within 30 days of the course of treatment, the individual would receive a vocational assessment. Within 10 days of that assessment, the treatment provider would work with the Kentucky Workforce Cabinet to get placed in job training or a job.

"With Senate Bill 90, more individuals will be able to get the help they need so they can reach their full potential," said Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Ashli Watts. "The business community is proud to support legislation that will benefit our fellow Kentuckians and communities for years to come." **READ MORE** 

Read more on kychamberbottomline.com.

### Kentucky Chamber Key Investors



### **Trustee**

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## CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE

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