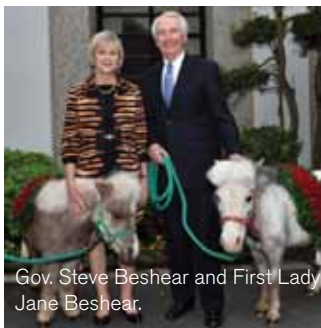




Kevin Canafax, Fidelity Investments, & Caroline Kennedy.



Gov. Steve Beshear and First Lady Jane Beshear.



Eric Haas, National Band & Tag Co., and Caroline Kennedy.



Tak Niinami, Suntory Holdings Limited.

Chamber leaders visit Japan, court investors

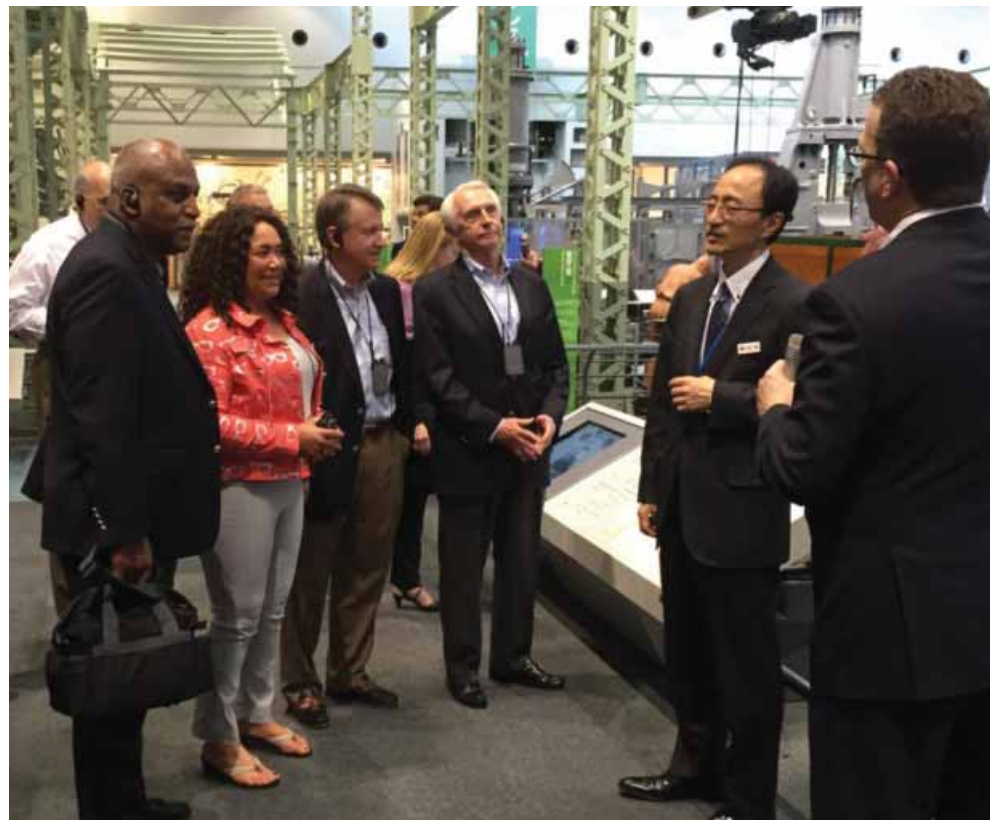
MORE THAN 30 delegates from the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce met with approximately 100 Japanese companies doing business in Kentucky at an event at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo in April. Hosted by U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy, the event honored Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear and Toyota's significant presence in Kentucky. Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Kentucky President Wil James, Jr., who serves as the Kentucky Chamber's board chairman, headed the delegation of Chamber board members and government officials for an eight-day business mission in partnership with the governor's office and the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development.

"Kentucky has a crucial relationship with Japan," says Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson. "Our key purpose of this trip was to say 'thank you' to the 170 Japanese companies that have operations in Kentucky. Not only are Toyota and its suppliers integral to our economic future, but we also have significant investments with Brown-Forman corporation, Beam Suntory and many others."

Although Gov. Beshear was in Japan on a separate economic development mission, he met with Chamber leaders during the reception at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo and during the delegation's tour of the Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology in Nagoya.

"Kentucky is a great place for Japanese business owners looking to locate operations in the U.S.," said Beshear. "It is my goal to continue to work with Japanese companies and aggressively market Kentucky's many business advantages to bring more investment and jobs to the Commonwealth."

During the trip, delegates met with Toyota executives in Japan, beginning with a visit to Toy-



Gov. Steve Beshear and Kentucky Chamber delegates toured the Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology in Nagoya, Japan. The tour was part of a eight-day business mission to Japan. From left, Chamber Chairman and Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky President Wil James, Jr., Michaelene James, Lyle Hanna (Hanna Resources) and Gov. Beshear listen to a guided tour of the museum.

ota's Ecoful Town where visitors experience what towns will look like and how people will live in the future. In Tokyo, the group visited Intersect by Lexus, a new lifestyle hub in Aoyama, a Tokyo neighborhood renowned for its pioneering design, fashion, art, music and technology.

"Intersect provides a venue where bright minds of these disciplines can gather, create and co-exist," said James. "With the first Lexus preparing to be built later this fall in Kentucky, we were proud to show how Lexus' philosophy of high-end design can cross into culture and lifestyle."



Alice Houston (Houston-Johnson, Inc.), Tierra K. Turner (TKT & Associates, Inc.) and Rusty Chevront (Brown-Forman) participate in a traditional Japanese lunch.

See JAPAN, page 2



David Gregory will keynote the Chamber's Annual Meeting July 27. Most recently, he served as the moderator of Meet the Press at NBC News, the capstone to a long career at NBC. He contributed anchoring duties to all the network's major programs including Today and Nightly News.

David Gregory to keynote Chamber's Annual Meeting

DAVID GREGORY, renowned journalist and former moderator of NBC's Meet the Press; will present the keynote address at the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Business Summit and Annual Meeting, presented by Bingham Greenebaum Doll, on July 27.

David Gregory's career in journalism began when he was 18. Over the last 25 years, his work has taken him across the country and around the world. Most recently, he served as the moderator of Meet the Press at NBC News, the capstone to a long career at NBC. He contributed anchoring duties to all the network's major programs including Today and Nightly News. He also anchored a politics program on MSNBC called "Race for the White House" during the historic 2008 campaign.

In addition, Gregory served as the network's chief White House correspondent during the Presidency of George W. Bush. He traveled with President Bush on Sept. 11, 2001, and during Bush's first visit to Ground Zero after the attacks. From the White House, he covered the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq

and earned a reputation as the toughest questioner in the press corps.

Gregory is the author of the forthcoming book *How's Your Faith?*, an examination of his own faith journey and those of others, including Bush, who asked Gregory the question that became the title of the book.

Now in its tenth year, the Business Summit and Annual Meeting, scheduled for July 27 and 28 at the Downtown Marriott Louisville, provides an opportunity for business leaders throughout the Commonwealth to discuss the issues related to the local, national and international economies. The Kentucky Chamber's signature event has consistently brought renowned journalists, political analysts and speakers to the Business Summit with the intent to enhance the conversations had during the two-day think tank.

Additional speakers for the two-day Business Summit will be announced in the weeks to come. Visit kychamber.com to register.



Check out the Best Places to Work in Kentucky Magazine included in this mailing to learn more about the 2015 winners – including the 58 Kentucky Chamber members that made the list.

Welcome new members!

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U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy welcomed Japanese business representatives and Kentucky Chamber delegates to a reception on April 21 in Tokyo.

FROM THE FRONT

Largest Kentucky delegation in 30 years visits Japan

The April 21 reception with Ambassador Kennedy in Tokyo is the culmination of the delegation's tour which begins April 16.

"We're pleased that Ambassador Kennedy and Beam Suntory have provided us with this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet with and thank this group of companies that provide so many jobs and economic opportunities for Kentuckians," said Adkisson. "This was the largest Kentucky delegation to visit Japan in more than 30 years, and we're very proud the Chamber was able to play a leading role in such an historic visit.

The delegation will also visit cultural destinations in Nagoya, Tokyo and Kyoto. This is the fourth international trip hosted by the Kentucky Chamber. Chamber delegations previously visited China in 2012 and 2013 and Dubai in 2014.



Chamber chairs past, present and future gathered for a photo while at the Ambassador's residence in Japan. From left, past chair Bill Robinson, incoming chair Kevin Canafax, current chair Wil James, Jr., past chairs Elizabeth McCoy, Lyle Hanna and Billy Harper.

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Chamber calls for continuing action on public pensions

AFTER ADVOCATING for many changes to the state's struggling public pension systems during the 2015 session, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce sent a letter to the co-chairs of the Public Pension Oversight Board expressing the urgent need for work on these issues during the interim.

In the letter, Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson noted the successes seen in recent years to improve the systems, but expressed disappointment in the lack of action by the General Assembly to pass recommendations put forward by the board and supported by the Chamber.

A few pension bills passed in the 2015 session including legislation to expand the jurisdiction of the Public Pension Oversight Board to include the Teachers, Judicial and Legislative pension systems and ensuring any entity withdrawing from the Kentucky Retirement System pay its unfunded liability.

However, there were many pension bills dealing with transparency and other issues left on the table. From the Chamber's perspective, two of the most important changes needed immediately include the hiring of an independent actuary and funding for state Auditor Adam Edelen to conduct a comprehensive perform-

"The Kentucky Chamber believes the pension issue is the most pressing challenge to the financial stability of the Commonwealth of Kentucky."

*Dave Adkisson
President & CEO,
Kentucky Chamber*

ance audit of the system, which the Chamber called for last year.

In the interim, Adkisson requested that the Public Pension Oversight Board take the following actions:

- Immediately hire an independent actuary and/or a national pension expert to evaluate the actuarial assumptions made by the current actuary for the retirement systems.
- Direct the Executive Branch, in the materials submitted to the legislature during the next budget process, to clearly identify the percentage of the full ARC being requested for the pension systems and to identify the source of funds being used.

- With the Public Pension Oversight Board now to have jurisdiction over the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System, the board should convene hearings prior to the 2016 session on the use of pension obligation bonds to fully understand the potential impact to the state.

- Provide funding to the Auditor of Public Accounts to conduct a performance audit of Kentucky Retirement Systems.

Adkisson closed the letter to legislators on the board asking for their help in addressing the biggest financial issue facing the state.

"As we have stressed in previous correspondence and in personal meetings with you, the Kentucky Chamber believes the pension issue is the most pressing challenge to the financial stability of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. We know you share our concern," Adkisson said. "The Chamber will continue to communicate with you and the members of the board on this matter, and believe the actions we have suggested in this letter will have a positive impact on our pension systems and the Kentucky taxpayers who finance them."



Scott County principal Jennifer Smith thanked Leadership Institute donor Wil James, president of Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Kentucky. Smith recently completed the Leadership Institute for School Principals program.

Leadership Institute honors school principals, donors at luncheon

IN APRIL, the Kentucky Chamber Foundation hosted a luncheon honoring the participants and sponsors of the Leadership Institute for School Principals. Held at the Governor's Mansion in Frankfort, the event was sponsored by AT&T Kentucky and attended by nearly 50 principals and program sponsors. Leadership Institute Chairman John Williams, CSI, Chamber Chairman Wil James, Jr., Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky, and Hood Harris AT&T Kentucky – one of the founding donors of the pilot program – spoke during the luncheon. First Lady Jane Beshear also greeted the group and spoke about the pivotal role principals play in their schools and communities. For more information about the Leadership Institute for School Principals, visit principalsleadky.com.



Casey County principal Joshua Blevins, a recent graduate of the Leadership Institute for School Principals, thanked program donor and chairman John Williams.



AT&T Kentucky President Hood Harris spoke to the graduates and donors about the importance of quality leadership in Kentucky's schools.

CHAMBER NEWS BRIEFS

ISELL, THOMPSON, BRAKE JOIN BOARD

Jeri Isbell and Paul Thompson were recently elected to serve on the Kentucky Chamber's Board of Directors. Isbell is vice president of human resources for Lexmark, and Thompson is chief operating officer for LG&E & Kentucky Utilities.

Candance Brake, president of the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce, will serve as an ex-officio member of the board as a member of the Local Chamber Advisory Board.



Isbell



Thompson



Brake

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The nomination process is now open for Kentucky Chamber Board of Directors seats beginning on Oct. 1, 2015. 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 502-848-8741. Nominations are due by May 22, 2015.

POLICY COUNCILS NOW FORMING

You can also get involved with shaping the 2016 Legislative Agenda by participating in the Chamber's policy council meetings this summer. For more information, contact Beverly Standifer at 502-848-8733.

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*The Economic and Health Impacts of Obesity, Institute on the Costs and Health Effects of Obesity, National Business Group on Health, February 2009.

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Kentucky Chamber

news



Ambassador Kennedy hosts Chamber leaders, Japanese companies at her Tokyo residence

Ambassador Kennedy (center) met with Gov. Steve Beshear, First Lady Jane Beshear (right) and Michaelene and Wil James, Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Kentucky (left).