

Kentucky Chamber
Uniting Business. Advancing Kentucky.

OCTOBER 2011

Business support of higher education yields good results

Per capita income, enrollment and attainment all show gains

PERSONAL INCOME, enrollment in college courses and the number of degrees and credentials awarded all showed gains over the past year, according to the latest progress report on postsecondary education produced by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.

Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson described the progress reports as the most encouraging news he has heard about Kentucky in several years. "The business community embraced higher education reform and saw it as an important part of the economic future of this state. We have stayed with it through the years and, while encouraged by this progress, also know that much work remains to be done if Kentucky is to achieve its goals for economic growth."

The 2011 update is the third the Chamber has issued since its Task Force on Postsecondary Education conducted a 10-year assessment of the progress that has been made since Kentucky's 1997 postsecondary education reforms. That independent review was released in December 2007 and included a set of statistical indicators recommended by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, which assisted in the preparation of the report.

The Chamber report follows a recent release from the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) noting that Kentucky has improved faster than any state in the nation on such key indicators as college attainment among working-aged adults, the percentage of degree holders among younger adults and the number of undergraduate credentials awarded per 1,000 adults with no college degree.

Highlights from the report

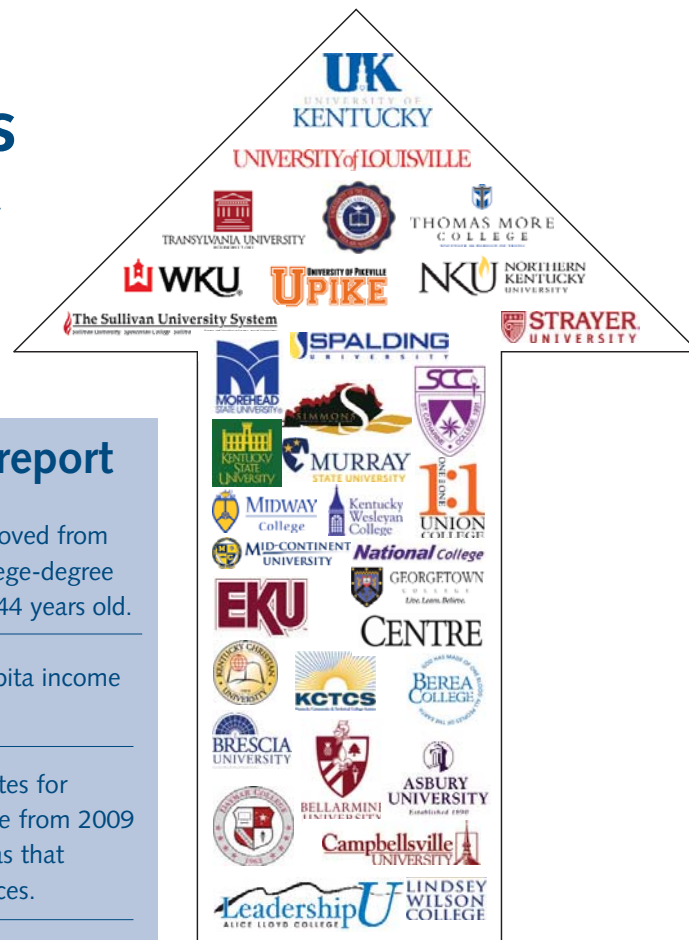
Between 2000 and 2009, Kentucky moved from 44th to 36th in the percentage of college-degree holders among people who are 25 to 44 years old.

Kentucky's national ranking in per capita income moved from 47th to 44th.

Kentucky ranked third among the states for percentage growth in personal income from 2009 to 2010. Personal income is defined as that received by all residents from all sources.

The state has moved up two positions and now ranks 45th nationally in the education attainment of 25- to 64-year-olds.

Enrollment continues to increase at public and independent postsecondary institutions, growing to 266,462 students in the fall of 2010.



"While the business community is encouraged by this progress, we also know that much work remains to be done if Kentucky is to achieve its goals for economic growth."

Dave Adkisson
President and CEO

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Kentucky Chamber Day

Chamber surveys gubernatorial candidates on business issues

THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER recently asked Gov. Steve Beshear and gubernatorial candidates Gatewood Galbraith and Sen. David Williams to weigh in on several key issues facing Kentuckians. Here's how they responded.

WHAT KEY CHANGES TO KENTUCKY'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM NEED TO BE MADE TO COMPETE IN THE FUTURE?



GOV. STEVE BESHEAR As governor, education has been a top priority. The actions I have taken include protecting basic K-12 education funding from budget cuts and creating a task force that stitched together an array of existing initiatives into a comprehensive strategy.

Additional investments are needed in early childhood education and health to give every Kentucky child a chance at success. We also need to raise the dropout age to 18, which would send an important message to children and their parents about our educational expectations. And we must develop strategies that improve college graduation rates and reduce the number of high school graduates needing remedial courses upon entering college.



SEN. DAVID WILLIAMS We must continue to implement Senate Bill 1, which focused the curriculum on core areas needed to compete for a well-paying job. We should support merit pay for teachers and charter schools. In Jefferson County we need neighborhood schools. We should decentralize education spending, redirecting funds to the classroom and away from the bureaucracy. I support giving school superintendents more authority in principal selection and how local funds are spent. I support emphasizing results in student achievement rather than simple compliance with some regulation.



GATEWOOD GALBRAITH It is crucial to Kentucky's long-term educational goals to educate its students towards further learning not just higher learning. To do so the Gatewood/Riley administration proposes the Commonwealth Incentive, which features a \$5,000 voucher awarded to every high school graduate to be utilized toward any institution of further learning in the state: college, university, community college, trade, technical or vocational school. A second primary component of the Commonwealth Incentive is education accessibility via advanced technology. To accomplish that goal we propose to provide every 8th grade student with a laptop computer to take home, utilize and share with their family. Combined, these efforts will elevate Kentucky students into the new militiamen of learning and global competition. (MORE ON PAGE 5)



2011 Kentucky Chamber Chairwoman Deb Moessner passes the gavel to 2012 Chairman Luther Deaton, who began his term Oct. 1.

Luther Deaton named 2012 Kentucky Chamber chairman

LUTHER DEATON, chairman, president and CEO of Central Bank and Trust, has been elected chairman of the Kentucky Chamber's 2012 Board of Directors. He succeeds 2011 Chairwoman Deb Moessner, president of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Kentucky. Chairman-elect Jim Booth, president of Booth Energy, will hold the post in 2013.

Deaton began employment at Central Bank in 1978. He worked in various roles at the bank until 1996 when he was promoted to president and CEO. He was named chairman in 2002. In addition to his roles at Central Bank and the Kentucky Chamber, Deaton is involved in numerous civic and community organizations throughout the Commonwealth. He is a graduate of Louisiana State University Graduate School of Banking of the South, and a graduate of the National Commercial Lending School at the University of Oklahoma.

A full board listing, including those continuing their terms, can be found at kychamber.com/2012board.

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Costly unemployment tax increase averted

IN MID-SEPTEMBER, Kentucky paid the first interest payment due to the federal government for money borrowed to pay unemployment claims. By paying it prior to the Sept. 30 deadline, Kentucky employers will not lose the federal tax credits worth a total of \$600 million.

During the weeks leading up to the payment, the Kentucky Chamber warned officials that a loss of the federal unemployment tax credit would be devastating to Kentucky employers. During those same weeks, the governor and legislative leaders indicated a willingness to address the issue before the Sept. 30 deadline. Because the General Assembly was not in session, only the governor could act to avoid the loss of credit by either calling legislators to Frankfort for a special session or finding a mechanism by which the state could make the interest payment.

Despite calls for a special session by legislators on both sides of the aisle, Gov. Steve Beshear opted to avoid a special session and make the payment by authorizing a cash flow transfer to the dedicated account created to pay this interest. The payment was explained in a news release from the governor's office:

"After exhausting all possible options for federal relief, Gov. Beshear authorized the full payment of Kentucky's interest bill. State law mandates that these interest payments be paid in a timely manner from the

Unemployment Insurance Penalty and Interest Account. That account had a balance of \$9.8 million, and Gov. Beshear authorized loaning the remaining \$18.4 million to the account from the Commonwealth's management of its overall cash flow."

This internal loan will be managed similarly to other funds where the timing of revenue intake and spending differs within a fiscal year, such as with the Tobacco-Master Settlement Agreement Funds. The \$18.4 million internal loan must be repaid by the close of Fiscal Year 2012.

The action taken by Gov. Beshear averts the immediate crisis, but does not

address the long-term payment of interest in the future. By "loaning" money to the fund, the governor's action will require the General Assembly to take action in 2012 to "repay" the loan and to find a funding mechanism for future interest payments.

Based on projections by the Unemployment Insurance Task Force Report, Kentucky will have to make these interest payments for the next 4-6 years until the full loan to the federal government is repaid.

The Chamber will work with the General Assembly and the administration to find a long-term solution in the best interest of employers that will prevent this sort of crisis in the future.

"At the Kentucky Chamber, we have been working hard to encourage our policymakers to find a solution to this issue. At least for now, the crisis has been averted."

**Dave Adkisson
President and CEO**



Chamber welcomes new UK president to Kentucky

ON AUG. 15, the Kentucky Chamber hosted a reception at its Frankfort headquarters for Dr. Eli Capilouto. Capilouto, pictured at right, was recently named president of the University of Kentucky. With him is 2011 Chamber Chairwoman Deb Moessner and President and CEO Dave Adkisson.

"I had the honor of knowing Eli for six years while I was at the Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce, and he was very highly regarded in business and academic circles. I'm excited about Eli and his wife, Mary Lynne, coming to Kentucky."

As education is the top public policy priority for the Kentucky Chamber, the organization has a vested interest in the continued success of higher education in Kentucky.

The Kentucky Chamber salutes our Key Investors!

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Coca-Cola Refreshment	Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance	Maker's Mark Distillery	Securitas Security Services, USA	
Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc.		Marathon Petroleum Company	Signature HealthCARE	



Kentucky Chamber Membership Development Managers Brian Jones and Sheila Boardman have received accolades for membership development and retention.

Chamber membership department honored for retention, sales

THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER'S membership development team recently earned runner-up status for Highest Retention Improvement in Numbers from the Association of State Chamber Professionals. This award is based on the fiscal year 2010 operations data collected from 20 state chambers.

"This is a great accomplishment for our Chamber, and our retention results were achieved through the extraordinary efforts of our entire staff and volunteer leadership," said Vice President of Membership and Marketing Carlos Phillips. "A special tip of the hat goes to Scarlett Cmiel and our strategic partners at B2B Professionals. Their efforts to call our general members, seek their feedback and gain their renewals are key to our retention results."

The Membership Department also received accolades in August during the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) Conference, when Membership Development Manager Sheila Boardman was recognized for achieving \$175,000 in membership sales.



SHANNON RIZZO recently joined the Kentucky Chamber staff as Membership Development Manager. Rizzo will represent the Lexington and northern Kentucky regions.

Small businesses eligible for grant opportunity

SMALL BUSINESSES in the state will now have access to additional lending opportunities thanks to a grant from the Department of Treasury, announced in September. The Kentucky Small Business Credit Incentive (SSBCI) grant, worth over \$15 million, will be leveraged with private lender funds to generate nearly \$155 million of new lending for small businesses.

The SSBCI programs will include the Kentucky Capital Access Program, the Kentucky Collateral Support Program and the Kentucky Loan Participation Program. The Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority (KEDFA), a board established within the cabinet, has been designated to accept the \$15.5 in funds and administer the new credit support programs.

"As one of the largest Kentucky-based community banks and a leading lender to small businesses, we are confident the SSBCI programs will provide much needed capital to ensure continued growth opportunities for home grown businesses that play such an important role in communities throughout the Commonwealth," said Steve Trager, chairman and CEO of Republic Bank, a Kentucky Chamber member.

Employers encouraged to consider veterans when hiring

THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER has pledged its support to the U.S. Chamber's Hiring our Heroes program, a year-long nationwide effort to help veterans and their spouses find meaningful employment.

The U.S. Chamber is working in partnership with the Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS) to improve public-private sector coordination in local communities, where veterans and their families are returning every day.

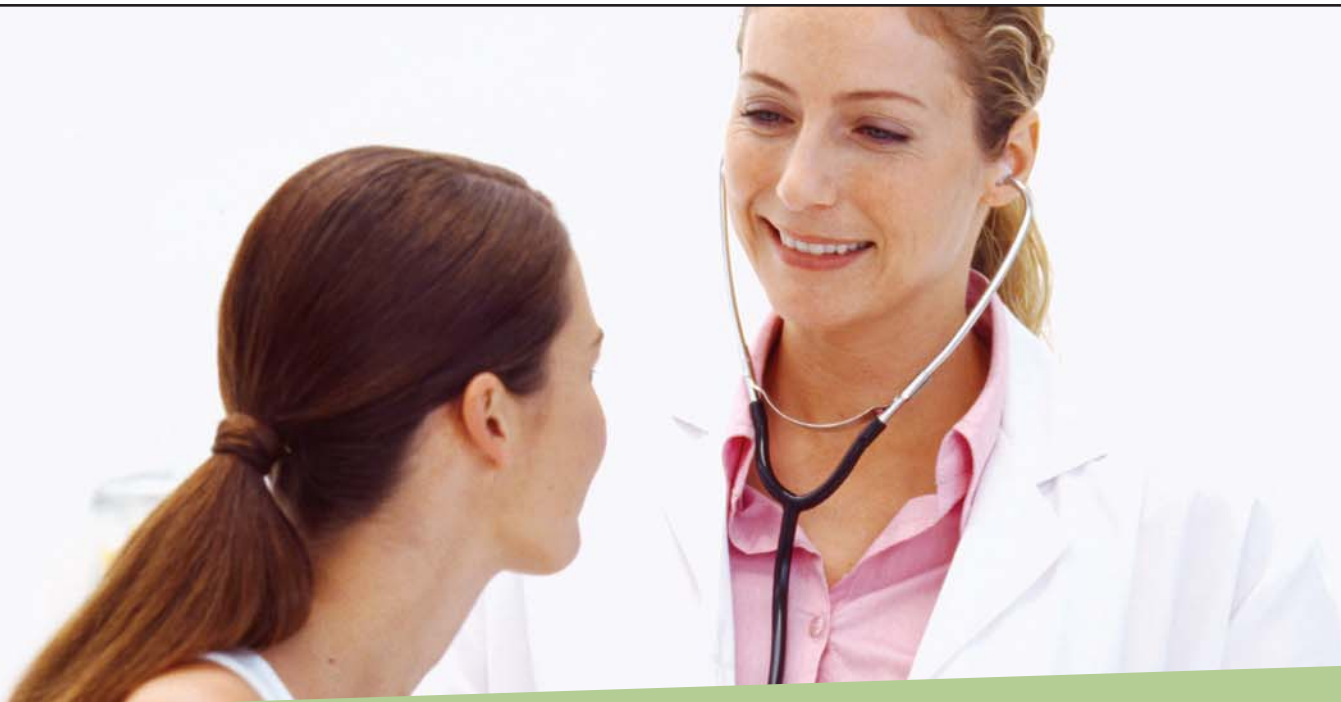
Job fairs are currently being organized throughout the country to encourage employers to hire veterans and members of the Army Reserves and National Guard. In Kentucky, two events have been scheduled so far. The first was held at Commerce Lexington on Oct. 25. Another will be held in Louisville in the Spring.

Kentucky Chamber members are also encouraged to partner with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Program. Visit esgr.mil or call 800-336-4590 for more information.

Adkisson to speak at Kentucky Agricultural Summit

ON NOV. 18, Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson will address opportunities for the Kentucky business and agricultural communities to work together in the global marketplace at the 2011 Kentucky Agricultural Summit. The Ag Summit will also feature speakers from around the country who will document the paradigm shift that is taking place in agriculture around the world. The event will be held at the Kentucky International Convention Center. For more information, visit kyagsummit.com

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Talk to your broker, call the Kentucky Chamber at 800-431-6833 or visit group.anthem.com/kcoc for more information.

*Discount only applies to Kentucky Chamber members who do not already have Anthem health coverage.

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ABOVE: Leadership Institute participants gather at their second session, held at the Chamber headquarters. **LEFT:** Dave Adkisson welcomed the Leadership Institute participants to Chamber headquarters. **RIGHT:** Rob Carroll, principal at South Heights Elementary in Henderson, looks on as Rebecca Elswery, principal at St. John School in Georgetown, and Jon Reid, principal at Heath High School in Paducah, complete a problem-solving activity.

Leadership Institute for School Principals continues at Chamber headquarters

THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER Foundation's Leadership Institute for School Principals continued in September and October as 47 principals visited the Chamber's Frankfort headquarters. The principals spent their time participating in experiential learning exercises, personality assessments, career coaching and facilitated discussions about research surrounding successful leadership habits. The training sessions were led by staff from the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, N.C. The group will return to Chamber headquarters this winter for a final training session.

This program was funded through a grant from the AT&T Foundation and donations from Chamber members and non-members alike. Nearly \$400,000 from the business community has allowed all principals selected to attend the training at no cost to themselves, a \$9,000 value per individual.

All principals involved in the program have applauded the efforts of the Chamber.

"I am in a cohort of 23 principals from across the state and, to a person, all said it was the single most effective professional development experience in which they had participated," said Jeff Jennings, principal at Butler County Middle School. "Since training began in Greensboro, we've all formed solid plans to take direct action that will have a positive impact on student achievement."

Although this year's Institute is a pilot program, an exploratory fundraising campaign has begun for 2012. If your company is interested in sponsoring a principal from your area, contact Kelly Wolf at kwolf@kychamber.com.

Adkisson keynotes KYSHRM Conference



The 27th Annual Kentucky SHRM Conference, presented by UnitedHealthcare, was attended by 540 HR professionals from around the state and also included 118 sponsors and exhibitors. Managed by the Kentucky Chamber, the conference was held at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville Sept. 28-30. Dave Adkisso, president and CEO of the Kentucky Chamber, provided the keynote address.

Kentucky Chamber comments on proposed rule that would chill employer free speech

THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER recently submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Labor regarding its proposed rule to change the interpretation of the "advice" exemption under the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA) — also known as the "persuader rule."

"The 'advice' exemption has been consistently interpreted for decades to mean that no disclosure is required under LMRDA if a consultant or labor attorney gives advice on strategy, drafts speeches or handouts or offers seminars on how to effectively communicate a union-free message to employees," the Chamber said in its comments. "Under the proposed rule, this interpretation would be significantly narrowed, resulting in routine consulting services to be considered 'persuader' materials and subject to disclosure."

Additionally, the Chamber said in its comments that if proprietary communications are disclosed, law firm members and other consultants report that the rule would compromise attorney-client relationships and deter them from offering their services to employers.

"This would have a chilling effect on employer free speech and prevent employees from making an uncoerced, informed choice either accepting or rejecting unionization. In addition, expanded disclosure requirements would burden employers already struggling with mountains of regulatory red tape."

Upcoming Seminars

OSHA Forklift Safety: Train the Trainer
November 1, 2011
Lexington, Ky.
\$299/\$399

OSHA Accident Investigation
November 2, 2011
Lexington, Ky.
\$299/\$399

21st Annual Kentucky Workers' Compensation Seminar
November 9, 2011
Lexington, Ky.
\$299/\$399

OSHA Safety Leadership Principles
November 17-18, 2011
Lexington, Ky.
\$595/\$695

OSHA 10-Hour General Industry Voluntary Compliance
December 6-7, 2011
Lexington, Ky.
\$495/\$595

OSHA 30-Hour General Industry Voluntary Compliance
December 6-9, 2011
Lexington, Ky.
\$895/\$1095

Kentucky Energy Management Conference
December 6-7, 2011
Lexington, Ky.
\$495/\$595

Supervising and Managing People
December 7-8, 2011
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HOW WILL YOU PROPOSE TO REFORM KENTUCKY'S TAX CODE TO PROMOTE JOB GROWTH AND STRONG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES?



GOV. STEVE BESHEAR In 2009, I proposed and passed legislation that modernized Kentucky's economic development incentives, increasing the tools and resources for businesses. This initiative has led to 350 companies potentially investing more than \$3.4 billion. These investments have created and retained tens of thousands of jobs for Kentuckians.

I am open to hearing additional ideas on how to make our state more business friendly. However, I do not favor any broad-based tax increases at this time. I will not threaten the survival and recovery of our businesses or burden our struggling families as we begin to emerge from the recession.



SEN. DAVID WILLIAMS I have proposed a sweeping jobs plan that includes comprehensive tax reform. First, I propose to jumpstart the economy by suspending several taxes that get in the way of business expansion (these tax suspensions would help our signature industries especially). Second, I want to completely eliminate the personal and corporate income tax, which we know hurts Kentucky in recruiting new jobs. Third, I want to create an expert commission

to design a new tax code from top to bottom without productivity taxes and with one goal – to make Kentucky the best state in the nation to create jobs.



GATEWOOD GALBRAITH An honest evaluation of Kentucky's current tax code must conclude that it is outdated and in need of a comprehensive overhaul. It is routinely described as "non-business friendly," therefore requiring large incentives or corporate tax exemptions, which places a disproportionate burden on Kentucky's small businesses.

The Galbraith/Riley tax plan seeks a reduction in many taxes, but no plan will defeat these problems or provide enough income if wasteful overspending continues. A modernized tax code is the first best step to success. Erratic policies have created an inequitable system prone to influence peddling, often forcing businesses to compete for favor. In addition, existing small businesses are overloaded with taxes, stifling growth and limiting employee hiring. We must tighten our belts and implement an improved tax code based on equity. Our code seeks to promote transparency and features pro-growth employment incentives, requiring a minimum amount of resources to comply. Loopholes should be closed as we seek to transition Kentucky toward the implementation of a flat tax.

IF THE 2010 PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT IS FULLY IMPLEMENTED, HOW DO YOU THINK IT WILL IMPACT KENTUCKY BUSINESSES? WILL YOU PUSH FOR KENTUCKY TO OPERATE ITS OWN HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE?



GOV. STEVE BESHEAR While a decision has not been made on who would operate an exchange in Kentucky – either the state government or the federal government – planning for any potential Health Insurance Exchange has begun, and the Commonwealth has sought input by consumers, providers and all interested stakeholders. Consideration will be given to suggestions related to the design, structure, individual and corporate participation and implementation of an Exchange.



SEN. DAVID WILLIAMS I strongly opposed President Obama's health care law, and as Governor would order the state into litigation to have it ruled unconstitutional. I think it will have a devastating impact on our businesses, driving up costs and costing jobs. The Kentucky Hospital Association says it will cost our state's medical facilities \$1.2 billion, in fact. If the law isn't thrown

out in court — which I think it will ultimately be — I will work hard to limit the damage done to Kentucky's citizens, businesses and state budget by ObamaCare and pursue an exemption from the federal government.



GATEWOOD GALBRAITH The newly approved Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act passed by Congress is certain to have a significant impact on Kentucky's businesses via expanded costs. Our solution is not to promote a state managed health exchange, which is in large part a duplicate of current programs, but rather to promote renewed funding to county health departments to provide basic services at an affordable rate. We hope to further expand services to include simple or preventative diagnostics via private/public sector partnership. We would like to work closely with Kentucky health care providers to create a Kentucky unique solution to

Kentucky's health care crisis once elected.

HOW WILL YOU PROTECT KENTUCKY'S LOW-COST UTILITY RATES THAT ARE CRITICAL TO RETAINING AND GROWING KENTUCKY'S ENERGY-INTENSIVE MANUFACTURING BUSINESSES?



GOV. STEVE BESHEAR Independent studies show that by the year 2025, the demand for power in the Commonwealth is expected to grow by 40 percent. With this number in mind, it became imperative that we take proactive measures to not only meet the demand but also keep prices from skyrocketing on Kentuckians. I unveiled my administration's seven-point, comprehensive energy strategy, called "Intelligent Energy Choices for Kentucky's Future," in November 2008. The ambitious plan we put forth, through those seven strategies, increases our energy production, reduces carbon emissions, ensures reasonable energy costs and creates jobs by fostering high-tech energy innovation and entrepreneurship.



SEN. DAVID WILLIAMS First, I will use every tool at the disposal of the governor to fight the Obama Administration's "War on Coal." I will use the governor's office as a bully pulpit to encourage lifting the moratorium on nuclear power in Kentucky. I will ask state utilities to continue to use Kentucky coal to produce cheap electricity.



GATEWOOD GALBRAITH All markets are demand driven. Choice and competition make for a viable industry; Gatewood/Riley propose to keep Kentucky resident's utility rates low by ushering in an atmosphere of competitive offerings to consumers and further encourage consumers to explore the wide array of energy choices available. Appropriate oversight guaranteeing adequate maintenance and timely upgrades of existing utility infrastructure combined with excellent service standards will help to maintain fair rates. The Gatewood/Riley administration will support the continued advancement of energy saving technologies and support conservation among users as well as promote expanded energy development. We support expanded energy development.

Read additional survey questions online at kychamber.com/election2011

Policy Conference Banner

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Chamber offers several options for your HR needs

THIS FALL has been a busy time in regards to employment issues, and to help you keep up, the Kentucky Chamber is offering the following resources to meet your needs:

UPDATED MANDATORY LABOR LAW POSTINGS

On Aug. 25, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) issued its Final Rule, requiring private-sector employers to post a notice informing employees of their rights under the NLRB Act. *The rule applies only to employers that are subject to the NLRA. Under NLRA Section 2(2), excluded from coverage under the NLRB are public-sector employees, agricultural and domestic workers, independent contractors, workers employed by a parent or spouse, employees of air and rail carriers covered by the Railway Labor Act and supervisors (although supervisors that have been discriminated against for refusing to violate the NLRB may be covered). The U.S. Postal Service has also been excluded.



All employers must post the notice by Jan. 31, 2012. As a result, we have updated our all-in-one Kentucky and federal poster to include the addition along with the Workers' Comp and Fair Housing notice.

ADDITIONAL LABOR LAW POSTINGS

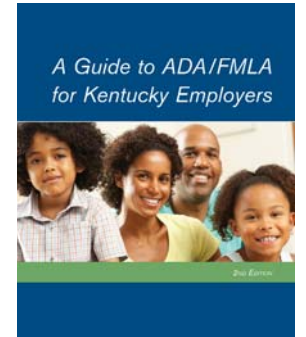
Did you know that employers must have certain postings available and within sight of job applicants and those interviewed? These four mandatory postings are included on the all-in-one poster mentioned above, but for those employers in need of something smaller and more attractive, this is the perfect solution. In addition, we are offering a federal contract poster that includes the additional notices those companies with federal contracts must post.

TRAINING KENTUCKY'S WORKFORCE TRAINING KIT

The Kentucky Chamber has released the first title in a series of training toolkits that allow employers to perform training on important workplace issues. This first title is Preventing Workplace Violence and includes two presentations: one for supervisors and the other for general employees. The toolkit features handouts, presenter guides, sample scenarios, forms and certificates, along with customizable PowerPoint presentations. The presentations can be conducted by your staff or you can take advantage of the prerecorded audio versions.

ADA/FMLA GUIDE

This 200-page guide answers common questions on both the ADA and FMLA. The regulations are addressed in an easy-to-read format, but one that still addresses the legal aspects of the laws. This guide is one of our most popular and is easily searched via the comprehensive index.



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This yearly, subscription-based site takes the resources the Kentucky Chamber has been providing for years and places them in an easy-to-access, up-to-date online portal. Visit us online at hrkentucky.com or call Casey Adams at 502-848-8727.



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Kentucky Chamber
President and CEO

IN 2007, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce launched the New Agenda for Kentucky initiative, a project that challenged Kentuckians to contribute creative ideas for an agenda to move the state forward. From the more than 400 ideas submitted, a task force narrowed down the list to create the top 100, which ultimately became the New Agenda for Kentucky Report. The New

Agenda was broken down into five key areas – transformational goals that have now become the foundation of the Chamber's strategic plan: improving the education attainment of Kentuckians, modernizing government, promoting wellness and healthy Kentuckians, preparing Kentucky to successfully compete in the global marketplace and expanding Kentucky's role as an energy leader.

Each year, the Chamber releases an annual progress report of the agenda to monitor the state's progress toward the five goals. The recently released New Agenda for Kentucky 2011 Progress Report, available for download at kychamber.com, found that while Kentucky is making slow, but steady progress in four of the five areas, one key area is continuously declining: promoting wellness and healthy Kentuckians.

According to the United Health Foundation's annual state health rankings report, Kentucky has fallen from 39th among the states in 2008 to 44th in 2010. The report also lists Kentucky's primary challenges:

- 25% of the population are smokers
- 32.3% of the population are obese
- 227 deaths per 100,000 Kentuckians are due to cancer

It's disheartening to see Kentucky falling behind in comparison to our neighboring states, but it's worse to

know that these numbers add up to staggering health-care costs for employers, individuals and taxpayers.

Experts estimate that 25% to 70% of health care costs could be avoided by improving health and health-care consumerism. By incentivizing employees to live healthier lifestyles, businesses would not only reap the benefits of a healthier workforce, but also the direct savings to their bottom line. At a time when health care costs are crippling the business community, that is a fact that simply cannot be ignored.

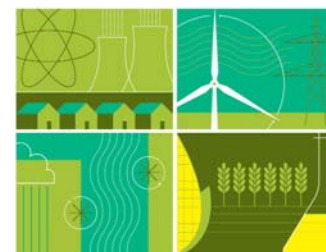
There has been some good news for health and wellness in Kentucky, however. The Commonwealth received more than \$35 million in federal grant money for health-related activities as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. That money is ready to be used to develop community health centers, for prevention and public health outreach, to address the needs of expanding Kentucky's workforce of health-care professionals and much more.

While the Chamber believes these grants will allow the state to begin to address Kentucky's public health battles, it will not be the solution to all of our problems. More work remains to be done in terms of improving the health status of our state, such as: expanding worksite wellness programs, increasing the number of health care professionals to improve access to care, and continuing efforts to reduce smoking, including the enactment of a statewide smoking law. These are only a few of the recommendations in the New Agenda for Kentucky 2011 Progress Report, but their implementation is imperative if we are truly dedicated to changing Kentucky's perilous path.

Now is the time for Kentuckians to consider creative ways to address this critical issue – not only to reduce the financial burden associated with higher health care costs, but to create a healthier and more productive place for all of us to live and work.

First-ever Energy Management Conference set for Dec. 6-7

THE ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE for business has been challenging in recent years. Among the many challenges facing Kentucky's businesses is the need to secure an economical and reliable supply of energy. Finding ways to better predict and manage energy costs and supplies is essential to ensuring economic success in this difficult environment. For this reason the Kentucky Chamber has added the Kentucky Energy Management Conference to its lineup of annual conferences; the first is slated for Dec. 6-7 at the Hilton Lexington Downtown.



"The Kentucky Energy Management Conference will give Kentucky businesses timely information and practical advice to help them navigate this challenging terrain," said Jim Ford, vice president of business education for the Chamber.

During the two-day conference, experts from industry and government will share valuable insights on the forces affecting energy supplies and prices today, including the effects of increasingly stringent government regulations, ever more scarce natural resources and evolving global economic trends. Attendees will receive a wealth of information to help achieve short-term goals of budgeting for energy costs today, as well as insights into the future cost and availability of energy sources such as coal, natural gas, wind, solar and nuclear.

The Chamber hopes to empower businesses by helping them master their own energy future, thereby ensuring future economic success. Register at kychamber.com. For information about sponsoring or exhibiting, please contact Andrea Flanders at 502-848-8723 or aflanders@kychamber.com.

Chambers in Kentucky receive national recognition by ACCE

AT THE AMERICAN Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) National Convention in Los Angeles, August 4-6, all lights were shining on chambers in Kentucky at the 2011 Awards Program. Paducah, Northern Kentucky, Owensboro and the Kentucky Chamber all walked away with awards, with the highest recognition going to the Paducah Area Chamber which was named Chamber of the Year.

Paducah became the third chamber in a row (and the fourth in five years) from Kentucky to be named ACCE's Chamber of the Year. The Chamber of the Year award is the highest achievement in the chamber profession, recognizing excellence in financial performance, member programs and internal operations. Previous winners are Greater Owensboro Chamber (2010), Bowling Green Area Chamber (2009) and Greater Louisville Inc (2007).

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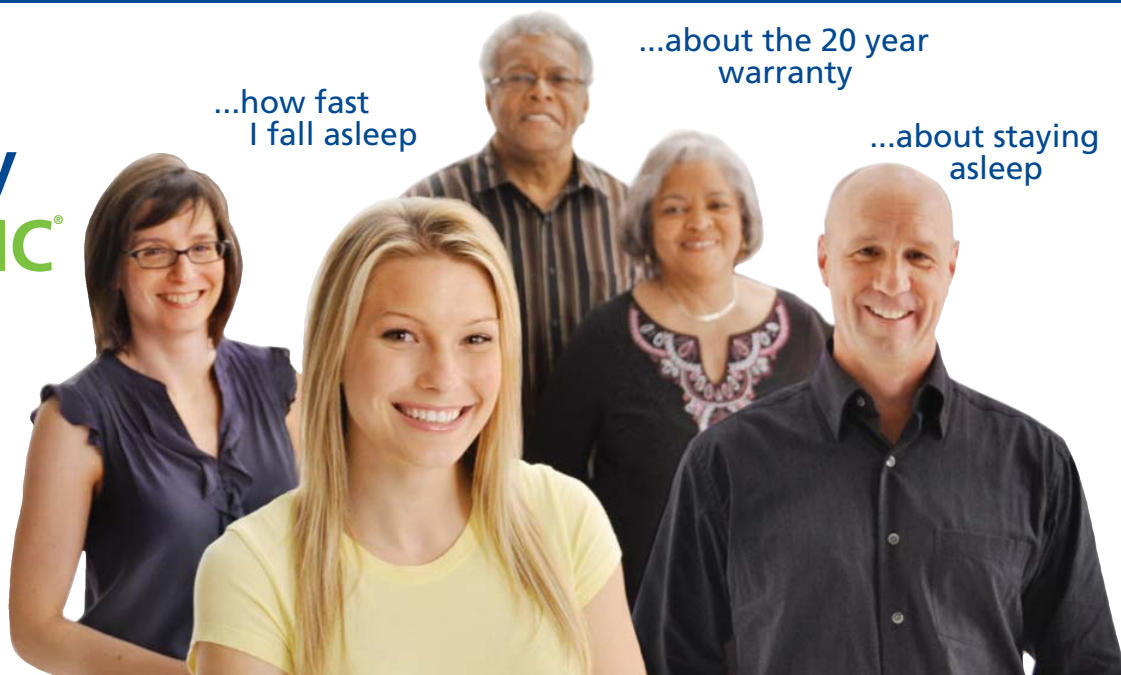
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OCTOBER 2011

Kentucky Chamber news



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- MID-CONTINENT UNIVERSITY
- EKU
- MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY
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- Morehead State University
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