

Bob Quick

Bob is president and CEO for Commerce Lexington Inc., a 1,750-plus member investor-driven chamber of commerce and economic development organization. In 2018, Commerce Lexington was awarded a Top 15 Mac Conway Economic Development Agency by Site Selection Magazine and in 2016 was named Chamber of the Year by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE). Under Bob's leadership in 2014 and 2015, Commerce Lexington Inc. was recognized among the Top 3 chambers by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE). During his 30 years in the chamber profession, he has also served as the President and CEO of the Metropolitan Evansville (IN) Chamber of Commerce and as the Executive Vice President of the Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce.



Bob has served as the assistant director of the World Agricultural Expo; administrative aide, Public Liaison Office of the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture; and served as the National FFA Secretary.

He serves on the following Boards of Directors: Commerce Lexington Inc., ACCE Benefit Trust, Lexington Industrial Foundation, Bluegrass Sports Commission and is an Honorary Board Member of the prestigious Sanders-Brown Center on Aging Foundation. He also serves as an advisory board member for Downtown Lexington Partnership and the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Cincinnati Branch's Lexington Business Advisory Council. In 2009, Bob was one of 34 chamber leaders nationwide selected for the ACCE/Ford Foundation's "Regional Sustainable Development" initiative. He currently serves as past chair on the ACCE Certified Chamber Executive Commission. In 2011-12, he chaired the ACCE Economic Development Committee. Bob is also a member of the U.S. Chamber's Chamber Committee of 100.

In 2011, Bob was named an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors for the Bluegrass Economic Advancement Movement (BEAM), an innovative economic development partnership initiated by the mayors of Lexington and Louisville along with the Brookings Institute to develop a regional business plan focused on advanced manufacturing. Bob also serves on the Advisory Board for Locust Trace AgriScience Center.

Bob is extremely involved in the Central Kentucky region in matters of public policy, community, economic, and leadership development. He is involved in the Bluegrass Alliance, an eight-county consortium of regional economic development entities, and was a founding partner in the Central Kentucky "Regional Public Policy Group."

Bob is a 1985 graduate of the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. In his spare time, he enjoys participating in outside sports and reading political memoirs. He and his wife, Julie, have three adult children, Kierstin, Andrew, and Morgan. They reside in Lexington and attend St. John's Lutheran Church.

Gina Greathouse



Gina is executive vice president for economic development for Commerce Lexington Inc.

She is a native of Franklin County and has been working in the field of economic development for over 30 years, including work in the Bluegrass since April of 1995. She is responsible for Commerce Lexington's economic development mission. Prior to her current appointment, she was employed by the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development from 1990 to 1995. She has traveled throughout the state, country and internationally working to recruit companies to Kentucky and the Bluegrass Region.

A resident of Fayette County, Gina graduated from the University of Kentucky's College of Business and Economics with high departmental honors in 1988. Gina has served the community in several capacities throughout her career. Most notably, she is co-chair for Central Kentucky's Bluegrass Alliance. She currently sits on the boards of LexArts, the Business and Education Network and the World Trade Center of Kentucky. She is a member of the Kentucky Association for Economic Development; the Japan America Society of Kentucky; and the International Economic Development Council.

Gina is an avid horse racing fan and owner. She and her two Chihuahuas, Pip and Buddy, reside in downtown Lexington.

Mary Quinn Ramer

Mary Quinn K. Ramer is President of VisitLEX, where she oversees all administrative, marketing and convention activities for the destination organization.

Mary Quinn brings 20 years of tourism, marketing communications, and event planning experience to VisitLEX. Prior to becoming President, Mary Quinn spent seven years as the Vice President of Marketing at the organization.

During her tenure, she has overseen a successful rebranding effort and launch of the iconic blue horse brand, coordinated all Bureau activities for two international equine events, launched an original culinary tourism initiative, launched a national PR campaign for the destination, and recently overseen the implementation of blue horse-branded merchandise. Working with city officials and architects, Mary Quinn was an active participant in the restoration of the Old Fayette Courthouse, which now houses VisitLEX headquarters and their state-of-the-art visitor center.



In addition, Mary Quinn is active with numerous tourism-related organizations, including membership on the Kentucky Horse Park Commission and the boards of the Kentucky Travel Industry Association, Horse Country, Inc., Rural Land Management Board, Sister Cities, Equestrian Events International, LexArts, and McDowell House Museum. She is also a member of the Breeders' Cup 2020 Host Committee.

Mary Quinn has been involved in many award-winning projects over the years. She is a proud recipient of the Public Relations Society of America's Silver Anvil award, as well as numerous marketing awards from the Kentucky Travel Industry Association, including the Most Innovative Award in both 2017 and 2018. In 2015, Mary Quinn received the Lois Mateus Networking Award from the Kentucky Distillers Association and the Bourbon Women organization.

Mary Quinn is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Centre College, and in 2008, she received the college's Distinguished Young Alumna Award.

Mary Quinn lives in downtown Lexington with her family and enjoys traveling across the globe and to interesting spots in her beloved Commonwealth, trying out new restaurants, spending time with her precious nieces and nephews, and savoring every last bite of a gingerbread man from Burke's Bakery in her hometown, Danville.

Amir Peay



Amir Peay is the re-founder, sole owner and operator of the James E. Pepper Distillery in Lexington, Kentucky.

Peay got an early start in the beverage alcohol business, via his early and multiple jobs in the restaurant and bar industry. As a former bartender, he learned first-hand the needs and motivations of the customers who now enjoy his products.

A student of philosophy, he later developed a deep appreciation for both American history and whiskey. These pursuits led him to discover the lost legacy of the iconic Pepper whiskey brand and distillery, both of which had been abandoned for over 50 years. Intrigued by the rich history, Peay was able to acquire the rights to the brand in 2008 and embarked upon a decade long

campaign of thorough historical research and collection of historic materials. A vast amount of information and materials were assembled so that the brand could be re-launched in a proper fashion.

Peay initially partnered with existing distilleries to relaunch the brand under the James E. Pepper "1776" label, then built it into an award-winning product distributed around the world. The success of the 1776 label allowed him to build an independent whiskey company, which in turn allowed him to fulfill a years-long mission to rebuild the abandoned and historic James E. Pepper Distillery in Lexington, Kentucky. The distillery re-commenced production in December of 2017 using the original bourbon last used at the distillery when it ceased production in 1961.

Anne Sabatino Hardy

Anne Sabatino Hardy is the executive director of Visit Horse Country, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to fan development through experiences at equine-related attractions throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Visit Horse Country was developed as an industry initiative in 2014 with inspiration from the Kentucky Bourbon Trail, with farm owners believing that opening the gates to their storied locations and allowing interaction with the horse could contribute to fan development.

Anne has lived many years in Lexington as well as in the Middle East with her husband, Jacob. She has worked in various areas of business including association management, marketing, consulting and journalism.



She began her career in public relations and worked on two Silver Anvil Award-winning campaigns. She is a lifelong fan of her hometown Indianapolis Colts and frequent visitor to the races.

Kim Shelton



Kim Shelton is president of UK Sports & Campus Marketing for JMI Sports. Shelton leads the University of Kentucky athletics multi-media rights, total campus marketing and Rupp Arena sponsorship sales.

Shelton has nearly 20 years of sports industry experience. She began her career in sales with Host Communications at the University of Kentucky and became the company's top producing account executive. She was later named general manager of the Kentucky property and continued in that role after Host was acquired by IMG College. Shelton left UK to serve as vice president of development for the YMCA of Central Kentucky. After Kentucky's multimedia rights were awarded to JMI Sports, Shelton returned as vice president of sponsorship

sales and was promoted to Chief Revenue Officer, responsible for managing sales activities, directing staff, managing client services and developing revenue generation strategies. Shelton was instrumental in leading the team at Kentucky in the development partnerships that resulted in the naming of the University of Kentucky football and baseball stadiums, Kroger Field and Kentucky Proud Park. She was promoted to president of the property in January of 2019. Given her long and successful track record, Shelton has incredible relationships with top sponsors and industry leaders across the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Shelton earned a bachelor's degree in business and a master's degree in marketing from the University of Kentucky, where she was a standout player on the women's soccer team.

Andi Johnson

Andi Johnson serves as the chief policy officer and Director of Regional Engagement for Commerce Lexington Inc. Prior to this role, she worked for the Republican Party of Kentucky as the Communications and Political Director. She has also worked for U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell and for the Office of the Kentucky Lt. Governor.

Andi received a bachelor's degree in political science from Georgetown College and a master's degree in diplomacy, communications from the University of Kentucky Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce.

She currently serves as a member of the YMCA High Street Board of Directors. She previously served on the boards of Opportunity Work and Learning and Mission Lexington. Andi is also a graduate of Leadership Lexington (2016). She spends most of her free time walking/running with Miss Bea, a yellow Labrador retriever.



Jim Gray



Jim Gray served two highly successful terms as mayor of Lexington, ending in early 2019. In 2018, Lexington was named fourth-best run city in the country by WalletHub, up from fifth-best in 2017.

Facing deficits on Day One of his administration, Gray righted Lexington's financial ship through a series of major reforms. Gray significantly reduced the city's annual health insurance costs while improving employee satisfaction through an on-site medical clinic and pharmacy.

His reform of the police and fire pension system preserved the retirements of more than 1,000 retirees while saving the city millions. Those savings allowed Mayor Gray to invest in public safety, including hiring more police officers and replacing outdated equipment.

In his second term, Lexington's economy grew quickly thanks to low unemployment and a thriving tech sector. Gray worked to drive growth in high-paying sectors through the city's first job-creation fund. To further nurture the creativity and entrepreneurship growing out of the University of Kentucky, Gray attracted private investment to make Lexington the nation's largest gigabit city through the creation of a fiber-optic network, also providing cable TV competition.

The revitalization of Lexington's booming downtown continues today with renovation of The Historic Courthouse and construction underway for Town Branch Commons. The Commons will wind through downtown, following the path of Lexington's original water source, Town Branch. There are also plans for the creation of Town Branch Park through a public-private partnership. Complementing Town Branch, the reinvention of Rupp Arena and an expansion of the Convention Center are also underway, marking the single largest public capital public improvement project in Lexington's history.

Gray received a B.A. from Vanderbilt University before returning home to help grow his family's construction firm, accepting a Loeb Fellow appointment at Harvard along the way. Today, he is chairman of the board of Gray Construction, one of the country's largest builders of manufacturing, distribution, automotive and food & beverage facilities, for which he formerly served as CEO. The company has annual revenues over \$1 billion and projects completed for companies like BMW, Toyota, Clemens Food Group and Amazon.

Allison Lankford

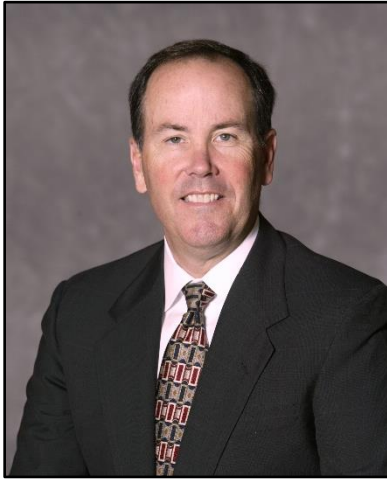
Allison Peck Lankford is the executive director of Town Branch Park, working to transform a sea of parking directly behind the Lexington Convention Center into an inviting and unparalleled signature park for Lexington. Town Branch Park will provide a crucial link between the Legacy Trail and Town Branch Trail, knitting together the urban core and truly bringing a piece of Lexington's iconic countryside to its city center. In addition to raising the money necessary to build the Park, the organization is responsible for the design, programming plan, revenue model and governance structure for the future Park.



Until her recent focus on the Town Branch Park, Allison led the Community Foundation's advancement efforts for over a decade, serving as senior vice president and general counsel. Prior to joining the Community Foundation, Allison was an attorney at the Lexington firm of McBrayer, McGinnis, Leslie & Kirkland and Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs in Louisville.

A graduate of Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina with a degree in Sociology and Political Science, she received her law degree at the University of Kentucky School of Law.

Bill Owen



Bill Owen is president and CEO of Lexington Center. He is a native of Gainesville, GA, and grew up in Lexington. He was educated in the Lexington public school system and received a BA from the University of Kentucky in 1973.

Bill began his business career leasing shopping centers for a Lexington based developer. He has been involved in commercial real estate development and asset management for 40 years mostly in downtown Lexington. Bill joined Lexington Center Corporation in 1991, serving as Chief Administrative/Financial Officer. He became President/CEO of Lexington Center on January 1, 2000, where he has served since.

Lexington Center is currently undergoing a major \$300 million expansion/renovation, including all new convention facilities and the reinvention of Rupp Arena. Lexington Center Corporation also owns and operates the Lexington Opera House and Triangle Park.

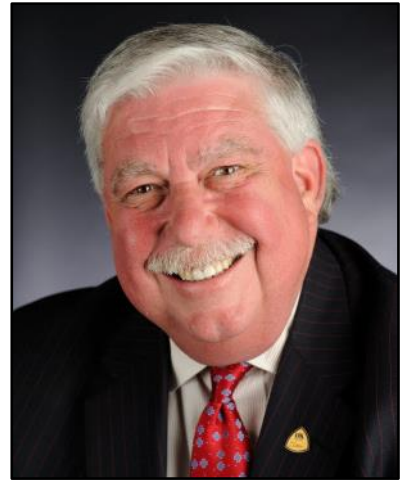
Bill and his wife, Debby, have three adult children. Bill has served on numerous community boards including the Downtown Lexington Corporation, Downtown Development Authority, the Convention & Visitors Bureau, YMCA, Baptist Seminary of Kentucky, Kentucky Baptist Foundation and others.

Alan Stein

Alan M. Stein is vice president of new business development for LM Communications Broadcast Media.

Stein brings more than 45 years of sales, consulting and senior management experience to LM Communications. He is the previous founder and CEO of the SteinGroup, LLC, a diversified national management consulting and business development company based in Lexington. He is former president and CEO of Lexington Professional Baseball Company, the Lexington Legends, and the Omaha Storm Chasers.

Stein also served as COO for Ivy Walls Management Company, LLC, a national company that owns multiple minor league baseball and other sports teams. From 1991-1999, Stein was an account executive and part owner of HMM Broadcasting, Inc., in Lexington. Stein is a member of the Bluegrass Business Hall of Fame.



Rev. Dr. C.B. Akins, Sr.



Dr. C. B. Akins, Sr., is a native of Bath Springs, Tennessee, and the son of Robert and Mary Lee Akins. He is one of six children born to this union. He is married to the former Roszaly Mack and is the father of four children: one son, C.J., and three daughters, Alicia, Neesha, and CeKasha.

Dr. Akins responded to the call to the ministry in 1977, was licensed to preach, ordained in 1980, and became the pastor of Carneal Chapel MBC in Paducah, KY from 1980-1983. In 1983, he accepted the call to pastor First Baptist Bracktown, Lexington, KY and has remained a faithful servant of God in growing the church from 65 to over 1,000 active members. In June 2006, a new church complex was built with a sanctuary seating over 900, classrooms for over 400, a library and computer center, a family

life center, an after-school and summer camp program for 80 children.

Dr. Akins graduated from Carrier Mills High School in Illinois; from the Defense Language Institute, Czechoslovakian Dept., Monterey, CA, in 1971; University of Maryland, German Department, Rimbach, Germany, 1972; Draughton's Business College, Paducah, KY, in 1976; Paducah Community College, Paducah, KY, in 1978; University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, in 1993 with a BASW with honors; Lexington Theological Seminary, in 1996 with a Master of Divinity; Simmons Bible College in Louisville in 1998 with an Honorary Dr. Of Divinity; and the Lexington Theological Seminary in 2001 with a Doctor of Ministry.

He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1969-1973 and was honorably discharged as a multilingual interpreter. From 1973 to 1980 he taught foreign languages in the Military Intelligence Division of the US Army Reserves. He has also studied eight languages: Czechoslovakian, Russian, Chinese Mandarin, German, French, Greek, Hebrew, and Latin.

He has served on numerous boards, including the Commerce Lexington Board of Directors; Fayette Educational Foundation Board of Directors; One Community One Voice Board of Directors; African-American Education Coalition; University of Kentucky President's Commission on Diversity; Kentucky Board of Education (2006-2011); Board of Trustees for Simmons College of Kentucky; Moderator, General Association of Baptists in Kentucky; Board of Trustees for Midway College (2007-2011); and the Board of Trustees for the University of Kentucky (2011-2017).

Dr. Akins is affiliated with the Progressive National Baptist Convention, General Association of Baptists in KY, and the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He is an in-demand preacher/speaker for revivals and conferences across the nation and is often called upon to support and to be a voice for disenfranchised cultures. In March 2011, Dr. Akins and his wife, among many other clergy and political figures, were blessed to be invited guests to President Barack Obama's World Day of Prayer Breakfast held annually in Washington, DC.

He is the author of "From Burden to Blessing." His motto is, "Our Sole Business is Soul Business."

Rufus Friday

Rufus M. Friday is the CEO of Rufus Friday Consulting LLC.

He joined the Lexington Herald-Leader & kentucky.com media company in June 2011 as the seventh president and publisher in its history, after serving six and a half years as president and publisher at the Tri-City Herald in Kennewick, Washington. He stepped down from the position in September 2018.

Rufus is a 32-year newspaper veteran, a North Carolina native and graduate from North Carolina State University. He began his newspaper career at the News & Observer in Raleigh, North Carolina in 1984. In 1992, he began an 11-year span with the Gannett Company, directing circulation divisions for the company in Tennessee, Illinois and Alabama.



He joined the Sacramento, California-based McClatchy Company (parent company of the Lexington Herald-Leader) in 2003.

Rufus has been active in the newspaper industry association as a member of the board of directors for the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association. He also has served in the community on the board of directors for the United Way of the Bluegrass, the University of Kentucky, College of Communication and Information National Advisory Board, the American Heart Association-Central Kentucky, the Bluegrass Community Foundation, the Lexington Industrial Foundation and the Hope Center

Rufus and his wife, Melody, have been married for 34 years and have a daughter, Chanel, who is a graduate of the University of Kentucky in the College of Communication and Information.

Mark Barnard



Mark Barnard has devoted his life to law enforcement and public safety, spending 32 years with the Lexington Police Department before retiring as the Chief of Police in 2018.

Barnard has distinguished himself as a respected leader, skilled problem solver and compassionate public servant. Under Barnard's tenure, the police department emphasized community outreach, placing officers within our school system as mentors, expanding services available to crime victims and partnering with organizations that represent minority and marginalized groups. The department doubled the size of its Narcotics Enforcement Unit, and Lexington was the first Kentucky city with detectives specifically assigned to investigate overdoses and prosecute the offender that supplied the narcotics.

Barnard has a master's degree in Police Administration and Criminal Justice from Eastern Kentucky University; he is a graduate of the FBI's National Academy and a graduate of the School of Strategic Leadership at the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice. In 2014, Barnard was awarded the Eastern Kentucky University College of Justice and Safety's Distinguished Alumnus Award, the Lexington Fairness Award presented by the Lexington Human Rights Commission and Lexington Fairness Organization and the Lexington Police Life Saving Medal.

Barnard continues to work with several boards and non-profit organizations and currently works with Traditional Bank in Lexington as a community and governmental relations officer.

Jamie Rodgers

Jamie is the deputy director of the National Association of State Chief Administrators, overseeing the research and policy platform.

Jamie has demonstrated a history of leadership across the local and state government. Outside of her formal role, she is a volunteer organizer of CreativeMornings Lexington, hosting a free, monthly talk series highlighting the creative community in Lexington. Jamie has served on the chamber's emerging professional conference committee, serves as her neighborhood president, and helped co-organize a community wide effort called "On The Table" in an effort to get more young professionals involved in the city's comprehensive planning process.



Prior to her current role, Jamie spent five years as Legislative Aide for the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government. Jamie has a B.A. from University of Louisville and an MPA from the University of Kentucky. Jamie is also an adjunct faculty at Georgetown College and a Fulbright Scholar.

Salvador Sanchez



Salvador is originally from "Skee-town" in the Mitten where he played euchre and tennis. Moved to Kalamazoo where he matriculated at Western Michigan University (Creative Writing, Business Management, and Spanish).

Then moved to Amarillo, Texas, to travel, play on a Blackberry, and get a dog - Phantom! Then moved to Austin to sweat and to travel some more.

Then he moved to Lexington to sling coffee. Then he moved to Denver to hike, run a lot, and drink beer. Then he moved back to Lexington to drink bourbon and sling chocolate.

Thennnnn he moved ... Just kidding.

Rob Perez

With 30 years of restaurant experience, Rob has seen first-hand how to build restaurant brands and how prevalent addiction is in the industry he loves. Along with his wife Diane, he founded Dv8 Kitchen as a social enterprise focused on giving second chance employment opportunities to people in recovery from drug or alcohol addiction through vocational, on-the-job training. Dv8 Kitchen focuses on providing top-quality food, service and atmosphere for every guest, and by providing “a better-than-expected” dining experience, the hope is to build a new standard for the second chance employee to live by and to change the way the guests perceive people in addiction recovery.



Rob has served as general manager of the Hard Rock Café in Dallas and in Orlando. His successful track record led him to the position of Director of New Openings for Hard Rock International, where he was charged with project management, city government liaison and negotiating leases; during his nine years at Hard Rock Café, Rob helped the company increase from three restaurants to over 30.

Rob then moved to Southern California to help The Walt Disney Company in its acquisition of ESPN. He was an integral part of the development and creation of the ESPN ZONE, developing every aspect of training, development, culinary, operations, policies and procedures that formed the foundation of this new and exciting restaurant experience. After the first ESPN ZONE opened in Baltimore, Rob led the operations team for opening in Chicago, New York, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Anaheim, Las Vegas and Denver. He was recognized by the National Restaurant Association for the prestigious “Hot Concept Award” in 2001.

He also has served as Vice President of Operations for Copeland’s Restaurants and served as a senior operator with one of the nation’s most successful Applebee’s franchisees located in Lexington, Kentucky. In 2008, Rob, along with his wife Diane, created, developed and operate Saul Good Restaurant & Pub in Lexington. There are now three locations.

Jonah Brown



Jonah is marketing director for Community Ventures (CV), an organization that helps people own homes and start businesses across Kentucky. From affordable financing to large-scale community projects, the organization's areas of focus offer the opportunity to dramatically improve the quality of life for people across Kentucky.

Jonah brings a diversity of skills and experiences to CV, with backgrounds in higher education, government leadership, and as a former litigation attorney, along with his own entrepreneurial background and mindset. He understands nonprofit markets and the value of marketing but is driven by opportunities to use his creativity to explore new ways to do business.

Outside of work, Jonah enjoys traveling with his wife Chioma, and playing with their dog Polo.

Jessica Winters

Jessica is founder and managing partner of The Winters Law Group. She is also an entrepreneur and attorney with 15 years of experience.

She was admitted to the Kentucky Bar in 2004 and is also admitted to practice before the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, as well as being admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Her practice focuses generally on entrepreneurship and social justice through the provision of legal advice and business services. She is also an experienced litigator in both federal and state courts. In 2015, Jessica was appointed to the panel of attorneys selected to represent individuals on criminal appeals before the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals under the Criminal Justice Act, and she is listed as an Approved General Civil Mediator on the Kentucky Court of Justice Mediation Roster, having mediated both civil and criminal matters.

She is a member of the Kentucky Bar Association and the Fayette County Bar Association, as well as a Founding Fellow of the Fayette County Bar Foundation, the bar association's charitable giving arm for law-related projects and education. She is the chair of the labor and employment law section of the Kentucky Bar Association and lectures several times a year on employment-related topics.

Jessica serves on the Board of Directors of the Kentucky Women Writers Conference, and previously served on the Board of Directors of the Bluegrass Trust for Historic Preservation and on former Lexington Mayor Jim Gray's economic development task force. In 2009, she was featured as one of Lexington's Leading Women in business in the Business Lexington publication. In 2011, Jessica co-founded Lexington's annual street art festival PRHBTN, an organization that has facilitated the installation of dozens of large-scale murals by world-renowned artists throughout Lexington.

She is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Kentucky in 2000 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism. She received her Juris Doctor, summa cum laude, from the University of Kentucky College of Law in 2003, where she was admitted to the prestigious Order of the Coif, was awarded the Faculty Cup for most outstanding graduate and served as Editor-in-Chief of the Kentucky Law Review.

Following law school, she served as law clerk to the Honorable Karl Forester, then Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky. She later worked in the Labor & Employment Practice Group at Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP. Jessica started a solo practice in 2007 and has enjoyed an Of-Counsel relationship with The Getty Law Group since that time. The boutique firm The Winters Law Group LLC was launched in 2019.



Mitch Barnhart



Mitch Barnhart is in his 18th year at the helm of the UK Athletics Department and is SportsBusiness Journal's reigning Athletic Director of the Year.

Barnhart has steadily invested in the growth of all 22 UK teams, with the proof coming in the form of \$300 million in facility improvements since 2007 and his pursuit of Elite 1-3-5. This program is designed to ensure each UK team is No. 1 or wins a conference or national championship, sustain a department-wide 3.0 grade-point average and rank in the top five of the Learfield IMG Directors' Cup standings by 2022. Four UK teams have won championships towards Elite 1-3-5, while the school's six best Directors' Cup finishes have come in the last seven seasons and Wildcat student-athletes on scholarship have

combined for a GPA of better than 3.0 in 14 consecutive semesters.

Barnhart is influential on the national level. He has served on numerous committees and boards for the NCAA and the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) and completed his third year as a member of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee in 2019. He has also served on the NCAA Division I Council, as chair of the NCAA Competition Oversight Committee and as a member of the NCAA Division I Baseball Committee, in addition to several other leadership groups.

On a league level, Barnhart – the longest-tenured athletics director in the conference – was named chair of the SEC Athletics Directors in 2017. Barnhart's legacy at UK includes helping develop administrators who have gone on to become athletics directors at nationally prominent universities, including Greg Byrne of Alabama, Mark Coyle at Minnesota, Rob Mullens at Oregon, Scott Stricklin at Florida, John Cohen at Mississippi State and Kevin Saal at Murray State.

Barnhart arrived at UK from Oregon State, where he served four successful years as athletics director. Before OSU, he worked in athletics administration posts at Tennessee, Southern Methodist University, Oregon and San Diego State. Barnhart is a native of Kansas City, Kansas. He earned his bachelor's degree from Ottawa University (Kansas) in 1981 and a master's in sports administration from Ohio University.

An avid mountain climber, Barnhart has scaled Mount Kilimanjaro, along with Mount Rainier in Washington and the Grand Tetons in Wyoming. He has also twice performed tandem parachute jumps with the Army Golden Knights. Impactful in community service, Barnhart has taken part in mission trips and was on the national advisory board of K-Love Radio.

Barnhart and his wife, Connie, also actively serve and support the Christian Student Fellowship and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. They have three children, Kirby Willoughby, Blaire Jansen and Scott; Kirby's husband, McKenzie; grandsons, Cooper and Reece; Blaire's husband, Andrew; and Scott's wife Cassie.

Betsy Dexter

Betsy Dexter joined Commerce Lexington in August 2015 as the executive director of The Business & Education Network (BEN). BEN is charged with assisting efforts to close the workforce skills gap in Central Kentucky.

Before coming to Commerce Lexington, Betsy spent three years with the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce as a Manager of Public Affairs specializing in Education and Workforce Policy. Prior to her work with the Chamber she was a Field Representative for former Congressman Ben Chandler, where she represented the Congressman throughout the 6th district of Kentucky. In April 2015, she completed a yearlong fellowship with the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives where she worked to develop strategies for improving talent pipelines in Kentucky.



She is an avid traveler, golf lover, mom to an 8-year-old Westie named Birdie, and is a graduate of the University of Kentucky.

Ray Daniels



Ray Daniels is vice chairman of the Fayette County Public Schools Board of Education, representing District 3. He was appointed to the board in mid-2016 following the death of John Price; he was re-elected to the board that fall and selected as vice chairman in January 2017.

Ray is the franchise owner of a Waffle House restaurant in Fayette County. He has significant experience in the education and community arenas, having served as a member of the Special Education Advisory Council and on the boards of the Kentucky Community & Technical College System Foundation, the Bluegrass Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, Community Ventures and the Urban League of Lexington-Fayette County.

He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Catawba College. Ray and his wife, Tiffany, have one daughter and one son.

James McMillin

James McMillin became high schools chief for Fayette County Public Schools in July 2019.

He started his career as a biology teacher at Henry Clay High School. James served as an associate principal at Woodford County Middle School and Tates Creek Middle School before accepting the principal's job at Bryan Station High School.

He holds a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Kentucky and two master's degrees – in curriculum and instruction from the University of Kentucky and in school leadership from Eastern Kentucky University.



Kim Lyon



Kim Lyon continues her 27 years in public service as the strategic partnership manager for Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS). During her time with FCPS, she has also served as a budget analyst, special program manager, Career and Technical Education program manager and fine arts coordinator.

Prior to joining FCPS, Kim worked for Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC), the state's housing finance agency. Kim began her career with KHC as a paralegal. Over the span of 15 years, she also served as the director of governmental affairs and director of communications.

She has a B.A. in business management from the University of Kentucky and an M.B.A. from Xavier University.

Steve Byars

Steve joined Moneywatch at the beginning of 2017 as a vice president, having spent 25 years as a Moneywatch client. Prior to joining the team, Steve was Assistant Vice President for Government Relations at the University of Kentucky for almost 13 years. He had developed a passion for helping people achieve their own financial independence.

Steve is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio.

He serves on the boards of directors of the YMCA of Central Kentucky, the God's Pantry Food Bank and Commerce Lexington. Steve and his family live in Lexington.



W. Mark Manuel



Mark is the Vice President for Advancement and Organizational Development for Bluegrass Community and Technical College. Advancement and Organizational Development is made up of Public Information and Marketing; Resource Development/BCTC Foundation; and Human Resources and Professional Development.

Mark's experience includes process redesign, lean manufacturing implementation, organizational consulting, organizational redesign, strategic planning, and employee development in both the private and public sectors. He serves as a board member for the Business and Education Network (BEN), Commerce Lexington, Leadership Central Kentucky, Opportunity for Work and Learning Foundation (OWL), and the Central Kentucky Public Policy Council. He also is a former board member of the Central Kentucky Region of the Sports Car Club of America (CKRSCCA) and enjoys all levels of sports car and formula car racing.

Mark's educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering from West Virginia University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Kentucky. He is a registered professional engineer in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Kim Kluemper

Kim Kluemper is director of business engagement for the University of Kentucky.

She began her career with the university in 2000. Throughout her tenure with the university, she has held several positions in philanthropy and alumni relations. In her current role, she oversees the university's business partnerships.

She began her career with the U.S. Government Accounting Office, providing efficiency and effectiveness audits of U.S. Air Force weapon systems.

A native of Western New York, Kim attended UK on a full athletic scholarship, earning a B.A and an M.A. from the university.



Kim Menke



Kim Menke is the Regional Director of the Government Affairs stationed at Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Kentucky, Inc. (TMMK) in Georgetown, Kentucky. He joined Toyota in 1987, as an Environmental Engineer to support the construction and startup Toyota's first wholly owned manufacturing operation in the United States.

From Toyota's largest and most complete manufacturing operation, he manages and supports company relationships with local, state and federal officials where the company has manufacturing operations in Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and West Virginia. Areas of specific focus include workforce development programs, economic development efforts, public policy and legislative efforts.

Prior to joining Toyota, Menke held Plant Engineering and Manufacturing Engineering positions with General Motors in Kentucky & Indiana. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Engineering Technology from Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

In the community, he has also served as the Chair of Local and Regional Chambers of Commerce, Public Policy, Business and numerous non-profit boards across Kentucky. His current efforts focus on workforce/economic development initiatives including KY Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education, Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board and the Kentucky Workforce Center.

Terry McBrayer

The McBrayer firm was established in February 1963 in Terry's hometown of Greenup, Kentucky, and has grown to the eighth largest firm in the Commonwealth, consisting of nearly 50 attorneys practicing from offices in Lexington, Louisville, Greenup, and Ashland, Kentucky, and a government affairs practice in the state capital of Frankfort.

In 1989, Terry was a founding fellow of the State Capitol Group, a seamless global network of more than 145 of the profession's preeminent independent law firms. This organization presently includes law firms in each of the 50 state capitals and numerous U.S. commercial cities as well as 92 foreign jurisdictions, totaling more than 11,500 attorneys in over 300 cities around the globe. The group allows member firm attorneys to obtain legal advice from multiple jurisdictions quickly, coordinate regional legal services effectively, reach decision-makers and elected officials around the world, and organize a multi-jurisdictional legal team while accessing local, experienced connections on a global level. The McBrayer firm is Kentucky's exclusive representative to the group.



Terry has held numerous leadership positions in state government; he was a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives, serving as House Speaker Pro Tempore and Majority Floor Leader, and served as CEO for Governor Julian Carroll. He has served as Chairman of the Kentucky Democratic Party and been an active member of the Democratic National Committee for more than 15 years.

He has been active in public service with numerous organizations, including as a Trustee on the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees, Chairman of Kentucky Education Television, Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Commerce, Chairman of the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals, Board of Directors for The Salvation Army, Chairman of the Greater Lexington Chamber of Commerce, and as a member of the Chandler Medical Center Board and the Kentucky Council on Higher Education.

Luther Deaton



Luther Deaton has served as President & CEO of Central Bank & Trust Co., since 1996. He was elected Chairman, President & CEO of Central Bancshares in 2003.

He began his career at Central Bank in 1978 in retail banking. He steadily progressed up through the lending department and was named executive vice president and head of commercial & retail banking in 1991. Deaton has completed the Graduate School of Banking of the South at Louisiana State University and the National Commercial Lending School at University of Oklahoma.

He is the current treasurer and board member of the American Bankers Association. He is a past board member and president of the Kentucky Bankers Association and a past chairman of Commerce Lexington. He has also served on the boards of Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Kentucky Economic Development Partnership, University of Kentucky Athletics, Downtown Lexington Corporation, Bluegrass Tomorrow and Kentucky Council on Child Abuse. In addition, he is a former Advisory Board Member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

Deaton is a native of Jackson, Kentucky and resident of Nicholasville.

P.G. Peeples

Porter G. Peeples, Sr. is a proud native of Lynch, Kentucky. He earned an Associate Degree in Education from Southeast Community College and a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary and Special Education from the University of Kentucky. In 1969, after teaching one semester in public school, Peeples became the Education Director at the Urban League of Lexington.

In 1972, Peeples became the President/CEO of the Urban League of Lexington – Fayette County, and is now one of the longest serving Urban League CEOs across the country.

Under his leadership, affordable housing has become the signature activity of the Urban League through the work of its development corporation. Since its inception, 267 units have been added to the Lexington community with a value of \$27,158,057. Of those, 159 are single-family homes, 57 are single-family rental units, and an additional 51 are apartments for senior citizens.

Peeples continues his dedication to the Lexington community through his active participation on numerous local and national boards and has received numerous awards.



Mira Ball



Mira Snider Ball serves as Chief Financial Officer for Ball Homes LLC. Ball Homes was incorporated in 1959 by Mira and her husband, Don. The company is operated by the couple and their three children, Lisa Ball Sharp, Ray Ball, and Mike Ball. Mira and Don are also the proprietors of Donamire Farm in Lexington.

Ball has always been an active member of the Lexington community. Since 2007, she has served as chair of the UK Board of Trustees, becoming the first woman to do so. In 1991, she became the first woman president of the Lexington Chamber of Commerce. She also is the first woman ever elected to the Kentucky Utilities Board of Directors. In 1997, Ball was named the first chairwoman of the Midway College Board of Trustees and continues to serve on that board as a Life Trustee.

She has worked with the State Economic Development Task Force and was a part of the Governor's Commission on Tax Policy. She served on numerous boards including the United Way of the Bluegrass, the Kentucky and Lexington Chambers of Commerce, Lexington United, the YWCA, Sayre School, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, the St. Joseph Hospital Foundation, the Lexington Industrial Foundation, the Children's Advocacy Center, the Kentucky Historical Society, the Governor's Mansion Preservation Foundation, and the Kentucky Horse Park. She continues to serve on the Endowment Board of KET and on the board of the Bluegrass Community Foundation.

Ball was named to Junior Achievement's Bluegrass Business Hall of Fame and honored as Woman of the Year by the Women's Center of Central Kentucky. She and her husband were honored jointly as Philanthropist of the Year, recipients of the Optimist Cup and the Happy Chandler Kentuckian Award. Mira was also inducted into the University of Kentucky's Hall of Distinguished Alumni in April 2010.

In addition to her three children, she has seven grandchildren.

Eric Frankl



Eric Frankl is executive director of Lexington's Blue Grass Airport. In this capacity, Eric has overall responsibility for the day-to-day management of the airport, including airport operations, finance and administration, development and community relations. He has worked in the airport industry for over 30 years. Prior to his appointment at Blue Grass Airport, Eric served as executive director at the airport in Toledo, Ohio and Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport in Springfield, Illinois.

Eric is a graduate of Bowling Green State University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Management in 1986. He received his professional accreditation in 1996 from the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) and served as President of the Great Lakes Chapter of AAAE in 2004/2005. In 2010, he was awarded an Industry Excellence Award by the National Air Transportation Association for his efforts in fostering relationships with local aviation businesses and was also named Airport Manager of the Year by the Federal Aviation Administration Southern Region. He recently finished a three-year term as the Chairman of the Airline Economics and Air Service Committee for AAAE and currently serves as a member on the AAAE's national Board of Directors.

Eric is an active member of the local community and has served on a number of local boards, including those for the Kentucky Blood Center, Bluegrass Care Navigators, LexArts and Kentuckians for Better Transportation.