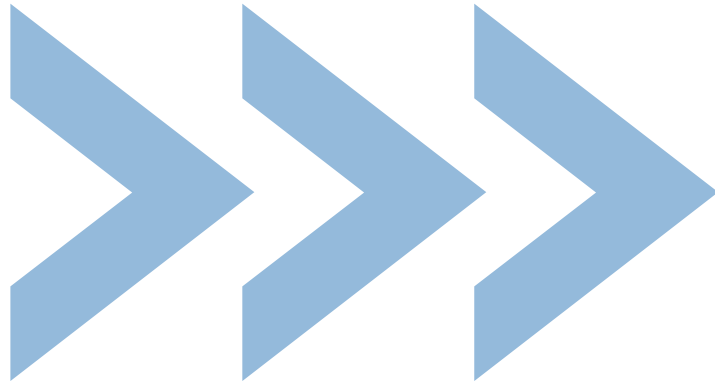




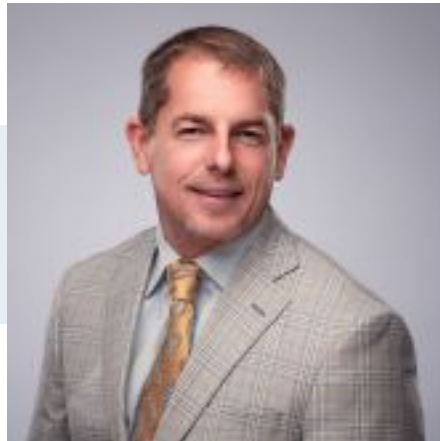
# 2025 **ANNUAL REPORT**

# BOWLING GREEN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LEADERSHIP

**Meredith Wilson**  
Interim President & CEO,  
Bowling Green Area Chamber of  
Commerce



**Andy Barker**  
2025 Board Chairman,  
Bowling Green Area Chamber of  
Commerce



## A LETTER FROM THE LEADERSHIP

As we look back on 2025, our region continues to show what's possible when business, education, and workforce development move forward as one. This year, collaboration wasn't just a strategy—it was a defining strength. Together, our partners helped expand pathways for talent, diversify the economy, and fuel economic growth across South Central Kentucky.

From innovative training programs and employer-led partnerships to expanded engagement at Chamber events and new opportunities for leadership development, our momentum continued to accelerate. We welcomed business expansions, celebrated groundbreaking projects, and strengthened the workforce pipeline that powers our growing economy. These achievements reflect a shared belief that our people—and the companies who invest here—are our greatest advantage.

Thank you to every partner, educator, investor, and employer who devoted time, expertise, and resources to our mission. Because of you, South Central Kentucky is building a more diverse economy, creating high-quality jobs, and preparing a skilled, future-ready workforce. And the best part: we are just getting started.





# MISSION

We provide valuable services to our partners, advocate a positive business environment, and stimulate economic development for South Central Kentucky.

# VISION

The Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce is the driving force for South Central Kentucky's business community.

# VALUES

Values are the standards that influence every aspect of our lives. Values provide the direction to decisions made by our organization. In all that we do, let us demonstrate our core values:

**INCLUSIVENESS** | We embrace behavior and actions that respect and honor the background, diversity, and contributions of all in our community.

**INTEGRITY** | We believe in demonstrating the strength, moral principles, honesty, and ethics that warrant the trust of the community.

**LEADERSHIP** | We believe that the community can only grow and prosper if we have the courage to be bold in our vision and stand by our convictions.

**SERVICE** | We value a commitment to service and believe responsibility and duty are imperative to enrich the community.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Andy Barker  
CHAIR

Julie Milam  
VICE CHAIR

Roddy Grimes

Chris Higgins

Travis Keller

Michelle Lawless

Mark Perdue

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Andy Barker  
Jason Boyd  
Jennifer Breiwa-Smith  
Amy Chandler  
Steve Clarke  
Rob Clayton  
Matt Coffey

Heather Coleman Brooks  
Jacob Cuarta  
Bart Darrell  
Mike D'Eramo  
Roddy Grimes  
Chris Higgins  
Hillary Hightower

Travis Keller  
Michele Lawless  
John Lee  
Zach Massey  
Julie Milam  
Chris Mosley  
Mark Perdue

Kendra Sewell  
Brandon Shirley  
Monica Wardlow  
Sam Younger  
Tahir Zukic

## AMBASSADORS

Derek Olive (Chair)  
Sarah Widener (Vice  
Chair)  
Sergio Beltran  
Jack Blair  
Amy Chandler  
Joe Davis  
Jeremy Frye

Nermina Handzic  
Dan Harbison  
Ken Haycraft  
Clark Hayden  
Drew Hubbard  
Courtney Ingram  
Rebecca Lee  
Sonja Meador

Kayla Morris  
Lisa Oliver  
Tracey Pharris  
Justin Raque  
Gary Reckart  
Ashley Reynolds  
Tony Rhoades  
Kendall Roper

Claudia Sweeney  
Mary Vitale  
Tamara Vogler  
Monica Wardlow  
Jackson Washer  
Tony Witty  
Kevin Yates



## STRATEGIC INITIATIVE CHAMBER PARTNERSHIP



# 1,258

ACTIVE CHAMBER PARTNERS

# 194

NEW PARTNERS

## State & National Recognition:

**kcce**  
kentucky chamber of  
commerce executives

- Excellence in Membership Retention - 87% (KCCE)
- Five Star Accreditation (U.S. Chamber of Commerce)





# PARTNERSHIP, PROGRAMS & EVENTS



**123**  
TOTAL EVENTS

**78**  
PARTNER CELEBRATIONS,  
RIBBON CUTTINGS, &  
GROUNDBREAKINGS



**358**  
VOLUNTEERS

**4,000**  
VOLUNTEER HOURS





# STRATEGIC INITIATIVE EXISTING BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION

To grow jobs and investment through a proactive retention and expansion program focused on our existing targeted businesses.



## AWARD WINNERS

### John B. Holland Business of the Year

Country Oven Bakery

### Healthcare Enterprise Award

Graves Gilbert Clinic

Med Center Health

TriStar Greenview Regional Hospital

### Newcomer Award

Caza Innovations

OgMentum ARK

AAA Cooper

### Business Innovation Award

BlueCotton

General Motors Bowling Green

Assembly Plant

CROWN Cork & Seal

### Green-to-Gold Award

Gracious Living

### Business Expansion

MetalWorks Recycle Reload

### Emerging Technology Business

Caza Innovations

**\$243.1M**  
CAPITAL INVESTMENT

↑  
**40** NEW  
JOBS

↑  
**8** PROJECTS



# STRATEGIC INITIATIVE NEW BUSINESS ATTRACTION



To grow targeted sector jobs and investment through the implementation of cluster strategies focused on: Advanced Manufacturing; Motorsports; Plastics; Food Manufacturing; Technology-Based Back Office; Corporate Headquarters and others.

# \$108.3M

IN CAPITAL INVESTMENT



- Nationally recognized hub for business growth and economic opportunity
- Prime destination for manufacturing, distribution, and emerging technology industries
- Strategic central location within a 34-state market
- Access to 60% of the U.S. population within a day's drive
- More than five billion dollars in capital investment over the past decade
- Over ten thousand jobs created in the past decade

# 391

NEW JOBS



# 4,100+

TRANSPARK EMPLOYMENT

# 122

TARGETED BUSINESSES





# STRATEGIC INITIATIVE TALENT DEVELOPMENT

## SCK LAUNCH K-12



### Leader In Me

- 14 Elementary Leader in Me Lighthouse Schools
- 3 Legacy Elementary Lighthouse Schools

### Experience – 8th Grade (2016 to 2025)

- Total students impacted since inception: 26,186.
- October 2025: 3,258 Students, 183 Educators, 12 School Districts, 26 schools (Public, Private, Homeschool Network)

### Career Shadowing – 11th & 12th Grades

- **2017 – 2025:** 3,455 High School students impacted by Career Shadowing
- **2024-2025:** 43 Career Shadowing Events impacting 713 students and 94 educators with 24 participating businesses.

### Student Ambassadors – High School

- 91 student ambassadors during the 2024-25 school year.

### Job Fair – Graduating Seniors (May 2025)

- 180 Seniors, 353 Interviews, 21 Companies, 50 accepted positions.

### Educator Externship – Educators

- 338 Educators impacted through one-day Externship since 2017.
- July 2025: 44 Educators impacted by 2 events at 2 businesses.

### Business Participation

- 145 **Businesses** have participated in SCK LAUNCH across all 7 sectors.





Young Professionals



BGYP

## Bowling Green Young Professionals

Bowling Green Young Professionals (BGYP) is a vibrant network for leaders under 40 who want to grow, connect, and make an impact. We bring together professionals across industries to build meaningful relationships, accelerate their careers with purpose, and strengthen their sense of belonging in the Bowling Green community.

**165**  
MEMBERS

**68%**  
INCREASE IN EVENT  
ATTENDANCE

**10**  
EVENTS

**28**  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS





# LEADERSHIP Bowling Green

explore. connect. inspire.

The **Leadership Bowling Green** program is an exclusive opportunity for established and emerging leaders to become immersed in learning about our community. Leadership Bowling Green ignites a passion for civic engagement and community leadership. The mission is to Explore, Connect, and Inspire.



## 2025 Class | 34 Class Members

- Class of 2025
  - 105 Participating Businesses
  - 31 Locations
  - 43 Alumni Day Chairs
  - 88 Speakers
  - 425 Volunteer Hours Completed



# STRATEGIC INITIATIVE INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Connect and grow innovation and technology companies; to increase the number of innovation and technology businesses in South Central Kentucky that create new high-tech jobs and increase capital investment in technology and innovation in South Central Kentucky.

# SCK ONE

South Central Kentucky Opportunity Network for Entrepreneurs

## PARTICIPATING PARTNERS



6 STARTUP  
GARDENS

3 NEW  
MASTERCLASS  
TRAINING EVENTS  
FOR SMALL  
BUSINESSES

1 SMALL  
BUSINESS  
SUMMIT & EXPO  
1 SBA SMALL  
BUSINESS  
EVENT

11 EVENTS  
IN 2025



87%

CHAMBER  
PARTNERS ARE  
SMALL BUSINESSES  
-- 10 EMPLOYEES  
OR LESS.





# PRESIDENT'S CLUB

EMPOWER THE VISION TO DRIVE THE FUTURE

President's Club partners invest beyond their Chamber partnership. They invest in supporting the economic development strategy of South Central Kentucky.

## Presenting



## Diamond Star

GREENWOOD  
EST. 1982



LINCOLN



## Emerald Star



## Platinum Star



## Gold Star

Atmos Energy	CROWN Cork and Seal	Kerrick Bachert PSC
Bell, Orr, Ayers & Moore, PSC	Franklin Bank & Trust Company	McCoy Construction & Forestry
BILSTEIN COLD ROLLED STEEL LP	German American Bank	TriStar Greenview Regional
Bowling Green Metalforming	Graves-Gilbert Clinic	Hospital
Bowling Green Municipal Utilities	Independence Bank	Warren County Water District

## Silver Star

Aerospace Composites Solutions	REALTOR Association of Southern	Tri-Arrows Aluminum, Inc.
AESC Bowling Green, LLC	Kentucky, Inc.	Tyson Foods, Inc.
Brown & Brown Insurance	Rough Country Equipment	Wehr Constructors, Inc.
Kelley Construction, Inc.	Service One Credit Union	
Murphy Construction Group	South Central Bank	

## Bronze Star

Abound Credit Union	Fifth Third Bank	Southern Coil Solutions
ALPLA, Inc.	FirstBank	Stewart-Richey Construction, Inc.
American Bank & Trust Company, Inc.	Forvis Mazars, LLP	Stryker Logistics
Arnold Consulting Engineering Services, Inc.	General Motors Bowling Green Assembly Plant	Stupp Brothers, Inc.
AT&T Kentucky	Holland, Inc.	STV Inc.
Ball Corporation	Houchens Insurance Group	T.J. Regional Health
Berry Global (BGKY)	Kentucky 811	TAZ Logistics
Blue Moon Port A Pot & Sanitation	Key Oil Company	Tennessee Valley Authority
Boyd CAT	Kobelco Aluminum Automotive Products, LLC	The Boldt Company
Brandeis Machinery	M & L Electrical, Inc.	The Law Firm of Flora Templeton
Cannon Automotive Solutions	Messer Construction Company	Stuart, PSC
Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC	NCTC	The Mint Gaming Hall at Kentucky Downs
Charles M. Moore Insurance	Neal Turner Realty	Three Springs Hospitality
Cleary Construction	Nova Steel USA, Inc.	Management, LLC
Coldwell Banker-Legacy Group	Omni Custom Meats, Inc.	Warren Rural Electric
Crye*Leike Executive Realty	Peoples Bank	Cooperative Corporation
Facilities Management Services, pbc	Performance FoodService	Wendy's of Bowling Green, Inc.
Faith Technologies, Inc.	Platinum Development LLC	WNKY News 40
Farmers Bank & Trust	PNC Bank	
	Pye-Barker Fire & Safety	
	Regina Webb Salon & Spa	
	Shade & Screen Solutions	
	Shaker JCB	