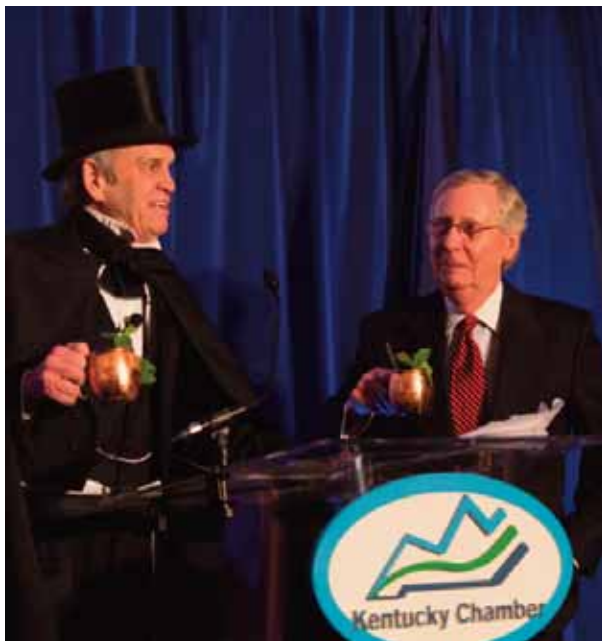


MARCH 2015

**Kentucky Chamber**
Uniting Business. Advancing Kentucky.

Senator Henry Clay – as portrayed by Georgetown College Director of Theater George McGee in a presentation from the Kentucky Humanities Council – offered a mint julep toast to Sen. Mitch McConnell during the Chamber's event at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C.

"For Senator McConnell's love of Kentucky, for his love of history, and for his defense of Congress against the presidency – no matter who the president is – I salute Senator McConnell."

U.S. Senator Rand Paul



Kentucky Chamber Board Chairman Wil James, president of Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Kentucky (TMMK), expressed his congratulations to Kentucky's senator on behalf of TMMK and the Chamber.

Chamber salutes McConnell in D.C.

AFTER A SUCCESSFUL re-election to the U.S. Senate and achieving his goal of becoming Majority Leader, the Kentucky Chamber honored Kentucky U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell with a dinner saluting his accomplishments.

Business leaders from across the Commonwealth gathered in Washington, D.C. Feb. 24 to help the Kentucky Chamber congratulate Sen. McConnell on his election to the top leadership post in his chamber.

"Sen. McConnell's election as Senate Majority Leader is very significant for Kentucky," said Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson. "We were pleased to have the opportunity to pay tribute to him and celebrate the fact that he is only the second Kentuckian to lead the Senate since Alben Barkley held the post in the 1930s and 40s."

The event, held at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue, has long been connected to Kentucky history. In the early 1800s, Kentucky Senator Henry Clay introduced the Bourbon Mint Julep at the Willard's Round Robin Bar. Clay famously used to ship bourbon barrels to the Willard on each journey to Washington for use in his diplomatic efforts.

Speakers at the event included Kentucky's other U.S. Senator Rand Paul, U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers, and Kentucky Senate Presi-

dent Robert Stivers. Senator Clay himself – as portrayed by Georgetown College Director of Theater George McGee in a presentation from the Kentucky Humanities Council – was on hand to offer a mint julep toast to Sen. McConnell.

"To Majority Senate Leader, Mr. Mitch McConnell ... Sir, we thank you for your service ... and we wish you success, for the good of Kentucky, the United States of America and a world desperately seeking compromise."

In his remarks, Sen. Paul expressed his appreciation for the hard work done by McConnell on behalf of the people of Kentucky and said he believes McConnell will begin to bring order to the U.S. Senate.

Rogers and Stivers each shared personal stories about getting to know McConnell through the years and watching what he has been able to accomplish.

Kentucky Chamber Board Chairman Wil James, president of Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Kentucky (TMMK), expressed his congratulations to Kentucky's senator on behalf of TMMK and the Chamber.

McConnell also delivered remarks at the event where he thanked all the speakers and organizers of the event and discussed where he would like to see the Senate make changes and how it will help move Kentucky forward.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS FROM THE EVENT APPEAR ON PAGE 3

Energy behind right-to-work efforts continues to grow at local level

AS RIGHT-TO-WORK legislation continues to be a big debate in Frankfort but no passage of a statewide measure, many Kentucky counties are passing their own ordinances to make their regions more competitive.

The Kentucky Chamber has long supported right-to-work measures to allow workers to choose whether or not they want to be a member of a union. The bipartisan local efforts are a step in the right direction to help Kentucky attract more businesses.

Since December, Kentucky counties including Warren, Simpson, Hardin, Fulton and Todd counties have passed right-to-work ordinances while Cumberland, Logan Whitley and Pulaski counties have considered versions but have yet to officially adopt them.

The Kentucky Chamber strongly believes right-to-work legislation is needed in order to make the state more competitive and has encouraged counties across the state to take up the issue and pass local ordinances.

"I've seen first-hand economic development recruiters in other states use this issue against Kentucky," Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson said. "It is most definitely a factor in recruiting companies and, in some cases, it

takes Kentucky out of the running altogether. I believe it is costing us several thousand jobs per year."

Warren County, Kentucky, was the first in the state to pass a local right-to-work ordinance on December 19, 2014. Since then, Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce President Ron Bunch says the decision to show companies their region is open for business has made a huge impact.

In a February House committee meeting in Frankfort, Bunch told lawmakers of the positive growth his county has seen in the weeks following the passage of the measure.

"Since right-to-work passed, we have logged in 20 new projects in Warren County. Those projects represent a capital investment of around \$199 million dollars and over 2,500 jobs," Bunch told the committee. "When I compare that to the same period last year, the jobs far exceed anything we saw last year and the investment far exceeds anything we saw. So the right-to-work measure is having a direct and current impact on our economic development efforts."

At the state level, the Senate passed right-to-



Kentucky Chamber President & CEO Dave Adkisson testified during a meeting of the Warren County Fiscal Court in December. After the testimony, Warren County became the first Kentucky county to pass a local right-to-work ordinance.

work legislation – Senate Bill 1 – during the first week of the 2015 session but the bill was voted down in a House committee, ending its chances for the session.

Many lawmakers behind the effort, including Senate President Robert Stivers and Senate Majority Floor Leader Damon Thayer, have said they are also encouraging counties in the state to take up the issue at the local level.

Adkisson has noted he believes other counties will likely follow suit. "When other counties see additional economic development activity and business growth in these right-to-work counties, I predict we'll see a number of other counties work to emulate that success."

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KENTUCKY CHAMBER NEWS

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Principals complete leadership training

AS KENTUCKY continues to seek to find ways to improve education in the state, the Kentucky Chamber Foundation's Leadership Institute for School Principals has proudly graduated another group of educators who will take their new skills home to their districts.

Since the start of the program in 2011, the Kentucky Chamber Foundation has raised and spent more than \$2 million to help principals in the state receive CEO-level leadership training at no cost to the educator.

The Leadership Institute for School Principals uses the generous donations of individuals and businesses across the state to allow principals to attend for free a three-day session in Greensboro, North Carolina, and another four-day training at the Kentucky Chamber headquarters where they are trained by a nationally acclaimed provider of executive education.

The program, which hosts two classes of an average of 25 principals in each group, saw another group complete the training in January 2015 and will congratulate them with a ceremony at the governor's mansion in March. The class of 2016 will be selected in April.

Many of the educators in the most recent class say the knowledge they have gained from the Leadership Institute for School Principals is already allowing for progress within their schools.

"The practical takeaways have directly impacted student achievement in our building. The work surrounding culture has enabled me to facilitate moving our school from toxic to a high performing culture focused on student success," Farnsley Middle School Principal Linda Hudson said of the program.

If you are interested in making a contribution to help train more educators in the state or want to nominate a school leader for the program, call Kelly Wolf at 859-221-8813 or email her at kwolf@kychamber.com to pledge your community's support for a better education system in Kentucky. If you would like more information on registration, visit principalsleadky.com.

Chamber forming new strategic plan



Ted Abernathy, Managing Partner of Economic Leadership LLC and the Economic Policy Advisor to the Southern Governors' Association, met with Kentucky Chamber board members and past chairmen in February to facilitate discussions on the Chamber's new strategic plan, which will be unveiled this summer.

Staff changes announced

JENNIFER ADAMS recently joined the Kentucky Chamber's Membership Development Team.
BETH BLANKENSHIP was recently named Sponsorship Development Coordinator.
SHEILA BOARDMAN recently joined the Kentucky Chamber's Membership Development Team.
SARAH CATHEY was recently named Operations Manager for the Seminars & Events Division.
JESSIKA JONES was recently hired as Marketing Manager for the Seminars and Events division.
BRENDA TRAVIS was recently named Membership & Development Coordinator.



Adams



Blankenship



Boardman



Cathey



Jones



Travis

State chambers urge Congress to prioritize transportation infrastructure investment

THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER and over 40 other state chambers are calling on Congress to make the long-term extension of the Highway Trust Fund a top priority and to reauthorize the surface transportation bill. In a letter sent to Congress on Feb. 26, the chambers wrote:

"As a national business community, we urge you to make transportation infrastructure investment a top priority in the next Congress. We are grateful for your leadership in passing the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) into law in 2012 after several years of short-term transportation funding authorizations. MAP-21 has led to the implementation of long overdue reforms, but its brief authorization ended just a short time ago. We urge you to avoid a succession of short-term patches and pass MAP-21's successor as soon as possible."

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A SALUTE
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER
MITCH MCCONNELL

The Willard Intercontinental Hotel – Washington, D.C. – February 24, 2015



FROM LEFT: Kentucky Chamber President & CEO Dave Adkisson; Chamber Board Chairman and Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky President Wil James, Jr.; Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell; Kentucky Chamber Immediate Past Chairwoman and Planters Bank President Elizabeth McCoy; and Chamber Chair-elect and Vice President, Government Relations/Public Policy, Midwest Region, for Fidelity Investments, Kevin Canafax.



U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell



Kentucky Senate President Robert Stivers



U.S. Senator Rand Paul



Ruth Brinkley, KentuckyOne Health; and Jill Bell, Passport Health Plan.



U.S. Congressman Hal Rogers (5th District)



Kentucky Chamber Board Chairman and Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky President Wil James, Jr.



Paul Thompson, LG&E and Kentucky Utilities



More than 200 attended the event at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel in Washington, D.C.



McConnell & Joel Hopper, Brenntag Mid-South, Inc.



McConnell & Mike Duncan, American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity



FROM LEFT: Pearse Lyons, Alltech; McConnell; Irish Ambassador Anne Andersen; and Deirdre Lyons, Alltech.

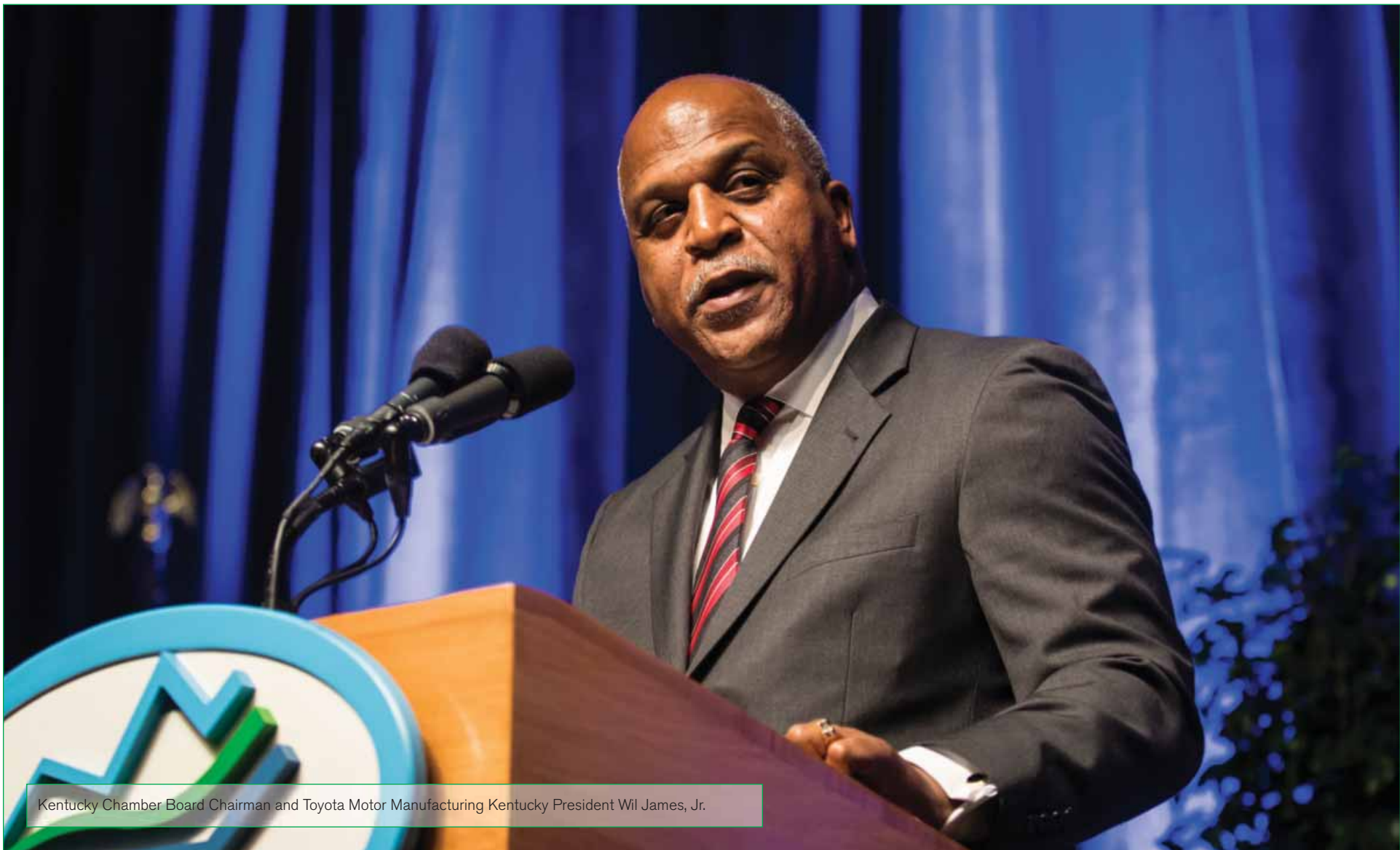


Greg Higdon, Kentucky Association of Manufacturers; and Steve Branscum, Branscum Construction.

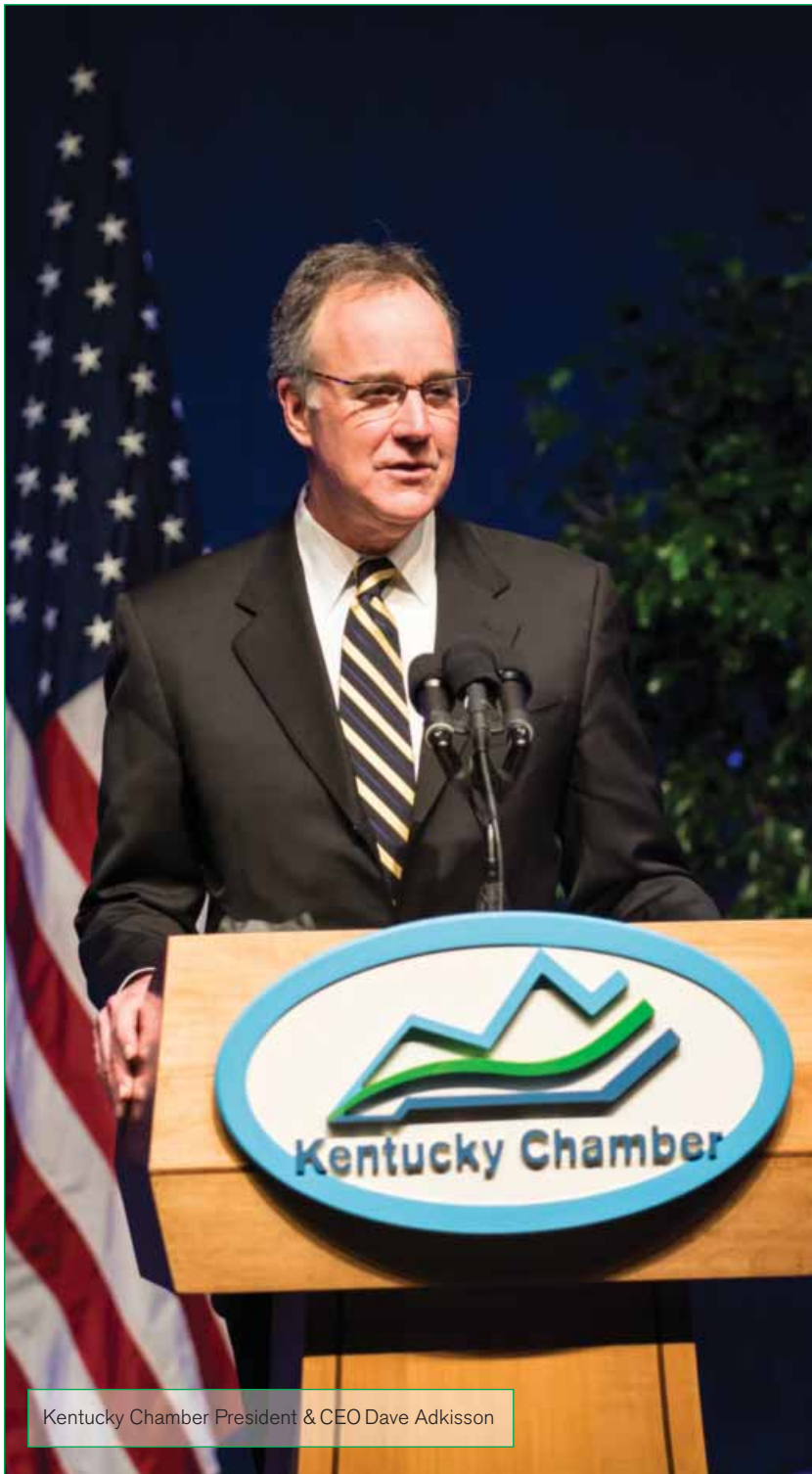
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January 8, 2015 | Heritage Hall | Lexington, Ky.



Kentucky Chamber Board Chairman and Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky President Wil James, Jr.



Kentucky Chamber President & CEO Dave Adkisson



Governor Steve Beshear



House Speaker Greg Stumbo

20th Annual Chamber Day brings tone of bipartisanship, shared priorities

LAWMAKERS and business leaders expressed a desire to work together to move Kentucky forward during the 20th annual Kentucky Chamber Day dinner. A crowd of more than 1,300 business leaders, legislators and advocates came together in Lexington Jan. 8 to talk about where Kentucky stands and how the state can improve. Kentucky Chamber President and CEO David Adkisson spoke of the positive growth in the economy and the encouraging bipartisan tone among legislators to accomplish important tasks. Adkisson said during the 2015 session, the Kentucky Chamber wants to see more policies that will make the state more competitive. “Not surprisingly, the business community wants to see more growth, more jobs created, more commerce. On behalf of tens of thousands of employers across the state, the Kentucky Chamber advocates policies that will make the economic climate of Kentucky more competitive ... not just

with surrounding states, but with the world,” Adkisson told the crowd. Among the issues the Chamber is advocating for during the session: public-private partnerships (P3) is a policy the state needs for transportation projects; local option sales taxes to allow local communities to complete projects they need; right-to-work legislation to attract businesses to the state; education and workforce improvements; legislation to address the state’s heroin issue; and many others. Many of the legislative leaders speaking at the event also shared some of the same priorities as House Speaker Greg Stumbo, Senate President Robert Stivers, Senate Minority Leader Ray Jones and House Minority Leader Jeff Hoover all spoke of the need for legislation to deal with the heroin issue and a P3 bill. Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear spoke of the positive advancements the state has made in recent years as he approaches the end of his final year in office.

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Sen. Robert Stivers, Rep. Greg Stumbo, Kevin Canafax, Chamber Chair-elect and Fidelity Investments Vice President, Government Relations/Public Policy, Midwest Region.



John Harryman, Norton Health Care.



Former Chamber Chairmen Jim Booth, Booth Energy, and Luther Deaton, Central Bank.



Jim Keeton, AEP Kentucky Power, and Micheal White, America's Finest Filters.



Senate President Robert Stivers



House Minority Floor Leader Jeff Hoover



Senate Minority Leader Ray Jones



Steve Loyal, Atmos Energy and Mary Michael Corbett with Norton Healthcare.



Former Chamber Chairwoman Jean Hale, Community Trust Bank.



90 companies named Best Places to Work in Kentucky

THE KENTUCKY SOCIETY for Human Resource Management (KYSHRM) and the Kentucky Chamber have announced the winners in the 11th Annual Best Places to Work in Kentucky competition. The winner rankings will be announced at an awards dinner Tuesday, April 14, 2015, at Heritage Hall in the Lexington Convention Center.

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Site Selection magazine awards Governor's Cup for most business projects per capita



Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson joined Gov. Steve Beshear, Hal Goode, president of the Kentucky Association for Economic Development, and Greg Higdon, president and CEO of the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers during a news conference announcing that Kentucky has placed first nationally in Site Selection Magazine's annual Governor's Cup rankings for new and expanded industry activity per capita in 2014. Last year, Kentucky announced more than 350 new location and expansion projects, which are projected to create nearly 15,000 jobs and more than \$3.7 billion in new investment. That is the most business investment in Kentucky since the state started recording investment data nearly 30 years ago.

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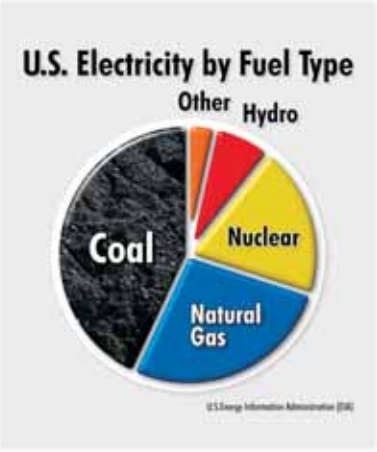
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Chamber salutes McConnell in D.C.