

Paducah Area CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



THE CHAMBER CONNECTION

Volume 30, Issue 4

www.paducahchamber.org

April 2026

Paducah Chamber's April PIP breakfast to feature KCTCS President Dr. Ryan Quarles

The Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce's April 2nd breakfast will feature Dr. Ryan Quarles, President of Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), as the speaker. This breakfast is sponsored by West Kentucky Community and Technical College. Youth LEAD Class #15 will also be recognized for their graduation and members of the class will speak at the breakfast.

The breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. at the Paducah-McCracken County Convention Center. Pre-registration is required by Monday, March 30th at 2 p.m. at paducahchamber.org or by calling 270-443-1746. Power Card holders do not have to pre-register. The cost is \$25.

Dr. Ryan Quarles is the fourth

president of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and leads the system of 16 community and technical colleges and 70 campuses. Following a national search, Dr. Quarles was named president by the KCTCS Board of Regents and began his position January 1, 2024.



Dr. Ryan Quarles

Dr. Quarles has a long history in statewide public service. He was first elected to the Kentucky House of Representatives in 2010 where he served until his election as Kentucky's Commissioner of Agriculture in 2016. In that role, he led the state's second largest executive branch agency through 2023, serving two terms. On a national front, he was president of the National Association of State Departments of

Agriculture in 2020-2021.

Dr. Quarles holds seven college degrees: a doctorate in higher education administration from Vanderbilt University; a master's degree in higher education from Harvard University; and a juris doctorate from the University of Kentucky College of Law. He earned his four other degrees, including two master's degrees, from the University of Kentucky.

Youth LEAD is for high school juniors and 36 students will graduate from Class #15. While in the program, students spend one day a month learning about human needs and service learning, communication and career development, business and economy, law and government, energy and transportation, and health care in Paducah and McCracken County.

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Youth Lead Class #15



2026 Public Policy Series



Welcome New Members



February Renewals



February PIP Breakfast

Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce

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info@paducahchamber.org

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Youth LEAD Class #15 – 2025-2026



Youth LEAD Class #15 will be honored at the April 2nd Power in Partnership Breakfast. The class is comprised of high school juniors from McCracken County High School, Paducah Tilghman High School, St. Mary High School, and Community Christian Academy. First Row, (L to R): Caroline Adkins, PTHS; Sasha Black, PTHS; Mollie Canter, MCHS; Paxton Carver, MCHS; Mason Clements, MCHS; Braxton Davis, PTHS; Second Row: Ethan Dillon, MCHS; Katelyn Dillon, MCHS; Sam Dobson, MCHS; Anna Grace Everett, MCHS; Nolan Goode, MCHS; Caroline Grumley, PTHS; Third Row: Lilly Hamilton, MCHS; Brennen Hartman, MCHS; Dellanie Horton, PTHS; Aaron Ladd, PTHS; Sophia Mabry, CCA; Meimei Manea, MCHS; Fourth Row: Sophie McMillan, PTHS; Karlee McNutt, PTHS; Neely Nyberg, MCHS; Addy Richards, MCHS; Ma'Kel Ridgeway, PTHS; Caroline Roberts, MCHS; Fifth Row: Kole Robertson, MCHS; Gavin Schooley, MCHS; Grant Seaton, MCHS; Ansh Shah, MCHS; Holt Shively, PTHS; Audrey Sims, SMHS; Sixth Row: Sophie Stratemeyer, SMHS; Claire Tucker, PTHS; Ashton Wallace, MCHS; Daniel Walters, CCA; Luke Whiteside, MCHS; and Brock Wilson, MCHS.

Welcome New Chamber Members: February 2026

Barrel & Bond

Bars

Larry Smiley
100 Broadway
Paducah, KY 42001
(270) 331-8159
lsmiley321@gmail.com
barrelandbond.com

Love Right at Home, LLC

Personal Home Care

Catherine Purdiman
222 Kentucky Ave, Suite 104
Paducah, KY 42003
(270) 201-4885
care@loverightathome.com
loverightathome.com

Nature Med

Medical Services

Amanda Brinker
435 Jordan Drive
Paducah, KY 42001
(520) 310-1369
abrinker@naturemedinc.com
www.naturemedky.com

Quad State Internet, LLC

Internet Services

Audra Ursini
1212 Helen St.
Paducah, KY 42001
(270) 953-0131
Service@quadstateinternet.net
quadstateinternet.net

RIOT Platforms

Blockchain Technology

Jeremy Witten
5657 Commerce Dr
Paducah, KY 42001
(270) 703-6613
jwitten@riotplatforms.com
riotplatforms.com

Spero Health

Substance Abuse Treatment Centers

Debra Acree
220 Berger Road
Paducah, KY 42003
(270) 441-0030
debra.acree@sperohealth.com
sperohealth.com

Squeaky Squad Pro Wash

Pressure Washing

Connor Horath
171 Mohawk drive
Paducah, KY 42001
(270) 331-2453
squeakysquadprowash@gmail.com
Squeakysquadprowash.com

Thermal Equipment Sales

HVAC Equipment Sales

Ryan McKinney
115 Eaglet Cove
Paducah, KY 42003
(270) 898-6976
ryan@thermaleq.com
www.thermaleq.com

Travelers Inn & Suites

Hotels/Motels/Airbnb/Lodging

Jaimin Trivedi
2550 Lone Oak Rd
Paducah, KY 0
(270) 554-1626
Travelersinnky@gmail.com
Travelersinnpaducah.com

Walker Hall Events Center

Event Centers

Tory Hicks
229 Madison Street
Paducah, KY 42001
(270) 575-4568
reservations@walkerhallevents.com
walkerhallevents.com

West Park Village Apartments

Apartments/Housing

Monica Rachan
2601 West Park Drive
Paducah, KY 42001
(270) 442-6608
mrachan.westpark@gmail.com
westparkvillageapartments.com

Thank You for Renewing Your Chamber Membership in February!

Ballard County Fiscal Court

Baptist Health Paducah

bbQ & more

Bluegrass Event Planning

Burkeen Appraisals

Buzz Donuts & Coffee

Chantillies

Chrislyn's, LLC

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis,
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Hooper's Outdoor Center

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Mellow Mushroom

Milner & Orr Funeral Homes

The Old Fashioned Cigar Bar

Paducah Beer Werks

Paducah McCracken County Senior
Center, Inc.

Paducah Railroad Museum

Pages Turned - Used Book Shoppe
and More

Peck & Milford LLP, CPA's

Perma-Staff/People Lease

Republic Services

CHAMBER CONNECTORS

Connector of the Month

Matthew Evinger

Houchens Insurance Group
Paducah Agency Manager

How long have you been a Connector?

"Since 8/25, going on 8 months!"

Why do you serve on the Membership & Marketing Committee?

"I like getting to know my new community and appreciate any opportunities to serve; my wife and I just moved here in July of last year. A lot of people don't know that our agency underwent a name change when we joined HIG at the end of 2023, we were Henneberger & Flynn for over 30 years!"

What is your favorite Chamber event?

"I've really enjoyed attending the Paducah Young Professionals events. A while back we got to take a tour of the WPSD building to check out the newsrooms and see where they print The Paducah Sun!"

Matthew is currently...

Watching The Last Kingdom

*Reading Restoration Agriculture by
Mark Shephard*

Listening to Live and Die - The Avett Brothers

Fun Fact!

"I recently just joined our McCracken County Master Gardeners Association and I am excited to get involved on our upcoming projects as the weather is starting to warm up!"



Culture is built in ordinary moments

How daily leadership behaviors quietly determine results

BY FRANK BENNETT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE LEADERSHIP CENTER

Culture is not a slogan on a wall. It is what people learn is safe, rewarded, and expected.

It forms through repetition.

Human beings are wired to look for patterns. We constantly scan our environment and ask, often without realizing it, "How do things really work around here?" Over time, repeated experiences answer that question. Those answers become shared assumptions. Shared assumptions become culture.

There are three simple ways culture is built inside any organization.

First, repeated moments. One meeting does not define a company. Patterns do. If meetings consistently

start late, people learn that punctuality is flexible. If leaders consistently follow through on commitments, people learn that accountability matters. If feedback is regularly invited and thoughtfully considered, people learn that their voice has value. Over time, repetition turns actions into norms, and norms turn into expectations.



Frank Bennett

Second, responses under pressure. Calm environments are easy. Culture becomes clear when something goes wrong. A missed deadline. A frustrated customer. A failed initiative. In those moments, leaders send powerful signals.

Do they focus on blame or on learning? Do they become defensive or curious? Do they shut down discussion or invite problem solving?

People pay close attention during pressure because uncertainty activates caution. When leaders stay steady and focus on solutions, they communicate safety and responsibility at the same time. When leaders react emotionally or defensively, people learn to protect themselves. Those lessons do not fade quickly. They shape how willing employees are to speak up, take initiative, or try something new.

Third, what gets rewarded. Promotions, praise, bonuses, and public recognition all communicate priorities. If teamwork is highlighted in speeches but individual results are the only path to advancement, employees quickly understand what matters most. If preparation, collaboration, and integrity are consistently recognized, those behaviors spread. Rewards create gravity. They pull behavior in a specific direction.

Culture does not require a formal ini-

tiative to exist. It is being shaped every day through ordinary interactions, whether leaders intend it or not.

The encouraging news is that culture is not mysterious. It is manageable. Small, consistent actions shape expectations. Expectations shape behavior. Behavior shapes results.

Want to see the patterns shaping your culture?

The first step toward a high-performance culture is a clear understanding of your organization's current cultural dynamics. The Leadership Center's Culture Assessment Tool provides a clear snapshot of your culture's strengths and the gaps that may be limiting performance. We use the assessment results to design customized training that strengthens alignment and results.

Want to learn more, contact Frank Bennett at fbennett@paducahchamber.org or 270-443-1746



WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

2026 LEADERSHIP MASTERY SERIES (WORKSHOP #2)

LEADING THROUGH CHANGE

APRIL 16TH

8:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

THE COMMERCE CENTER
PADUCAH BANK COMMUNITY ROOM
(300 S. 3RD ST.)

SPEAKERS INCLUDE



FRANK BENNETT

The Leadership Center



MICHELLE CAMPBELL

Paducah-McCracken Co. Convention & Expo Center



CHRIS WOOLDRIDGE

Murray State University

This session explores organizational change through leadership challenges, team dynamics, and real-world practices from organizations constantly adapting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER VISIT

paducahchamber.org

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO START FRESH

LEADERSHIP PADUCAH CLASS #39 PROJECT BENEFITING



paducah **cooperative** ministry
Doing God's Work with Human Hands

The Fresh Start Village Welcome Center is often the first space residents, donors, volunteers, and community partners experience when arriving at Fresh Start Village. The current building is outdated and does not reflect the care and support needed by the residents. Fresh Start Village is Paducah Cooperative Ministry's transitional housing program for women and children.

Your contribution will be used to enhance the interior and exterior of the building including:

- Vinyl Siding
- Landscaping
- Deck Construction
- Shutters
- Exterior Vinyl Fencing
- Interior Kitchen Remodel
- Overall Design Improvements



*Learn how you can
help and donate
by visiting us online at
leadershippaducahproject.com
or by scanning the QR code*



FRONT OF BUILDING AFTER IMPROVEMENTS

Congratulations on your Ribbon Cutting

Congratulations to Barkley Regional Airport on their ribbon cutting to celebrate the new service with SkyWest Airlines. SkyWest began offering daily service from Barkley Regional Airport in February, connecting Paducah to United Airlines' major hubs in Chicago and Houston. Visit flybarkley.com.



Congratulations to Larry Barnes with Barnes Marine Service, LLC, 1201 N 6th St., on their ribbon cutting. Barnes Marine was founded in 2009, and they specialize in coordinating grocery and supply deliveries directly to towboats. Visit barnesmarineservices.com.



Congratulations to Enterprise Truck Rental, 3210 Coleman Rd., on their new location and ribbon cutting. They offer a variety of vehicles for all your hauling needs. They are open Mon. - Fri. from 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Visit enterprisetrucks.com.



Congratulations to Marshall Yards Racing & Gaming, 65 Campbell Dr., Calvert City, on their Grand Opening and ribbon cutting. They are owned and operated by Churchill Downs. They offer historical racing machines, simulcast wagering on horse racing and sports betting kiosks. Visit marshallyards-gaming.com

2026
GOLF
SCRAMBLE
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**TEAM REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN**



SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Register online at
paducahchamber.org

**MONDAY
JUNE 8**

**COUNTRY CLUB OF
PADUCAH**

LUNCH: 11:00 A.M.
SHOTGUN START: 12:30 P.M.

Paducah Chamber to host National Civics Bee competition

The Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with the U.S. Chamber, will host a regional competition of the 2026 National Civics Bee. The live quiz competition will be held on Saturday, April 25 at 10 a.m. at The Carson Center.

Middle school students were asked to submit an essay application in February. Essays were judged by panel of community members from throughout Western Kentucky. The top 20 finalists and their parents were notified in March they were

chosen to compete in the live competition.

The finalists and top winners will receive various prizes, including \$500 cash for the first-place student. The top three winners at the Paducah Chamber's competition will then have a chance to compete against other middle school students from across the state at the state level competition later this summer.

Data Records Management Services and The Carson Center are Presidential Sponsors.



SAT, APRIL 25TH
10 A.M.

THE CARSON CENTER



March PIP Recap



The Paducah Chamber March Power in Partnership Breakfast was sponsored by Four Rivers Nuclear Partnership. The featured speaker was Cody Thomas, Managing Director of Market Development for SkyWest Airlines. Myrna Redfield spoke on behalf of Four Rivers Nuclear Partnership. Barkley Regional Airport and Jay's Electric were the supporting sponsors of the breakfast. Pictured from left to right: Myrna Redfield, Four Rivers Nuclear Partnership; Cody Thomas, SkyWest Airlines; and Kenny Boyd, 2026 Chair of the Chamber Board and Baptist Health Paducah President.



The public is invited to watch as 20 student finalists from across the region compete.

**THANK YOU
to our sponsors!**

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2026 PUBLIC POLICY SERIES

2026 Presenting Sponsors:



PUBLIC POLICY SPRING MINI SERIES THREE FORUMS. ONE SPONSORSHIP.

A FRONT-ROW SEAT TO THE CONVERSATIONS SHAPING OUR COMMUNITY.

Your sponsorship—covering all three forums—helps make these events possible and allows the Chamber to engage candidates and voters in meaningful discussions prior to the election.

U.S. SENATE FORUM - DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

MONDAY, APRIL 27

11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

- Charles Booker
- Amy McGrath
- KY House Minority Floor Leader Pamela Stevenson



Charles Booker



Amy McGrath



Leader Pamela Stevenson

U.S. SENATE FORUM - REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

FRIDAY, MAY 8

11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

- Cong. Andy Barr
- Daniel Cameron
- Nate Morris



Cong. Andy Barr



Daniel Cameron



Nate Morris

MCCRACKEN CO. JUDGE EXECUTIVE FORUM

TUESDAY, MAY 12

11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

- County Comm. Richard Abraham
- Judge Exec. Craig Clymer
- Matt Moore



County Comm.
Richard Abraham



Judge Exec.
Craig Clymer



Matt Moore

Secure your sponsorship and/or individual tickets today by visiting paducahchamber.org.

All sponsorships must be confirmed by **Friday, April 17.**

All forums will be held at the Paducah-McCracken Co. Convention Center.