

## Leadership Central Kentucky class takes on Woodford County

Article by Marcie Christensen  
CompassRoseWorks.com

We began the day at Kentucky Central Technical College System with our 'Influential Leader' presentation. Titled "Let me tell you about a dental hygienist we know", it introduced the class to Becky Moore, whose impact on Midway is legendary. Serving two terms on City Council followed by two terms as Mayor, Becky initiated policies and programs that revitalized the city - achieving a downtown renovation through the establishment of the Renaissance/Main Street program and uniting community volunteers in numerous projects. In 2007 Women Leading Kentucky honored Becky with the Martha Layne Collins Leadership Award.

Tim Burcham, KCTCS VP, served a dual presenter role, first introducing us to the revitalized Woodford County Chamber of Commerce - a group that is adapting itself from a chamber focused on Pancake Breakfasts and Parades into a vital partner in regional planning. The Chamber has joined Commerce Lexington's Public Policy Group, has formed a local committee to prepare for the 2010 FEI World Equestrian Games, and is developing a new website - a one-stop, integrated face for the Chamber, the City and County, Woodford County Tourism and the Economic Development Authority.

Mr. Burcham then led the class in a highly engaging discussion of the future of education in Kentucky. Since its creation in 1997, KCTCS has become the largest provider of postsecondary education and workforce training in the Commonwealth, with 16 colleges on 67 campuses across the state. For most Kentuckians the journey through higher education begins at KCTCS - 2007 fall enrollment exceeded 92,000 statewide. When Texas Instruments left a 50 year old archaic manufacturing facility in Versailles (taking 500 jobs with them), the city asked TI to donate the building, then asked KCTCS to move in. The city floated its own bond authority (\$6.8M) and in 2004 the extensively renovated facility became the new headquarters for KCTCS. The System has proven to be the most adaptive and efficient institution of higher education in the state, achieving economy through centralization and educating a greater number of students on less funding

(per student) than it enjoyed ten years ago.

After a two-year research study into the state's demographics revealed a crisis in our future workforce (baby boomers leaving a huge hole in the talent pool, HS drop-out rates generating \$7 billion in lost revenue, and the increase in global competition), KCTCS developed a 12-year plan to address the issues. The Plan for a Competitive Commonwealth 2008-2020 addresses the KCTCS mission critical areas of workforce education, transfer education, and college and workforce readiness. At the heart of the Plan is the fact there is a significant disconnect between the public perception of higher education and the reality - 83% of high-wage, high-growth jobs forecast will be Associate Degree holders, not Bachelor's level and beyond. Working collaboratively with all stakeholders in industry and government, the task before KCTCS is centered on creating a shift in public perception. Other significant issues include breaking through the four-year institutions' refusal to accept all credits students earn in the Community College System. We could easily have spent the entire day in lively conversation at KCTCS but it was time to move on to our next stop.

The Woodford County Senior Citizens Center is housed in a bright and airy new building in the county park, with windows overlooking children's play areas and a wide greenspace. Local high school students come to work with the Day Center's clients, a volunteer conducts woodworking classes, and a Brownie troop was scheduled to put on a play the next day. Complimenting the light-filled day room are classrooms, a media room, and a library. According to Program Director Mary Aliano, their mission is to keep senior citizens in their home and living independently. The agency provides in-house lunches, activities, outings and socialization. They provide transportation to the Center for those who no longer drive, deliver meals to individuals who are home-bound, and provide home care - an aid comes to the home to provide light house keeping and personal care. Transportation is also provided to doctor's appointments, grocery shopping, beauty shops, etc.

Sharing this beautiful facility is the



Leadership Central Kentucky class members took a tour of Woodford Reserve during Woodford County Day last month.

Adult Day Center, providing full-day and respite care for individuals affected by stroke or mental disability. Director Cindy Vogelgang showed us the separate wing of the Day Center, which includes a kitchen, showers, and a laundry. An RN is on duty at all times.

A short walk from the Senior Center brought us to Falling Springs Arts and Recreation Center, where Richard Pictor, Director of Parks and Recreation took us on a tour through his section of the impressive facility. Falling Springs is a state of the art recreation center, complete with a three-court gymnasium, indoor pool, outdoor splash pool, therapy pool, fitness center, aerobics room, and meeting rooms. The Center has several options available for people who wish to use the amenities, ranging from a \$5 day-pass through a 20-visit card to an annual contract, all at prices well below those of comparable facilities in the region, and Woodford County residency is not required.

Beth Kirschner, Director of the Woodford County Theatrical Arts Association, welcomed us to the Center's 310-seat performing arts theatre. Long homeless, the Association now enjoys a fully equipped production facility with a rotating-platform stage, state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems, back-stage costume department, prop storage rooms, and a set construction shop. The WCTAA is dedicated to providing the best quality community theater they can offer, and they fulfill their mission by

producing at least four plays per year, offering theatre classes and workshops to all ages and providing free demonstrations, lectures and consultation to area schools, churches, businesses and individuals. Beth's passion for the arts was contagious as she explained their philosophy - The Arts are for Everyone. WCTAA is doing more than putting on plays - they are providing a creative outlet that develops the qualities that define good citizens-- discipline, commitment, a spirit of cooperation, and creative problem-solving skills. They believe a healthy arts organization provides long-lasting economic benefits to its community by attracting businesses and consumers.

It was time to board our Wombles bus for the trip to the National Historic Landmark - Woodford Reserve Distillery, where we enjoyed a fabulous gourmet lunch prepared by chef-in-residence, David Larson, followed by presentations from Versailles Mayor Fred Siegelman and Midway City Councilmember Charlann Wombles. Versailles, founded in 1792, is completely surrounded by beautiful, serene farmland and some of the most famous horse farms in the Bluegrass. The reputation of Versailles and Midway as "quaint communities" is the result of thoughtful planning and strong participation by their citizens. Woodford County enjoys the status of Kentucky's wealthiest county, along with the state's lowest unemployment rate and the highest level of citizen

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## Leadership Lexington class members learn about public safety system

Full article located at [www.leadershiplexington.com](http://www.leadershiplexington.com)

Article by **Sasha Y. Wagers**  
**Stites & Harbison, PLLC**

This year's Public Safety Day provided a behind-the-scenes look at the multiplicity of facilities and personnel devoted to ensuring that our community remains safe and secure. Co-day chairs, Patty Fenley with Hampton Inn and Fayette County Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Larson provided the class with a very thorough and thought-provoking view of public safety and the criminal justice system. Prior to this day, most of the class had participated in a police ride-along, which added to their experiences.

Public Safety Day began with a visit to the newly constructed Regional Juvenile Detention Center, and the introduction of Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Larson as the Lexington community's most influential leader in public safety. The group toured the Detention Center and learned that housing inmates is big business.

The class next ventured to the Fayette District Courthouse, where Sheriff Kathy Witt provided a courthouse tour from the perspective of a criminal defendant. Sheriff Witt explained arraignments and the transportation process involved in getting defendants to and from the Detention Center.

Inside a courtroom, the class learned about preliminary conferences and heard from two Assistant Commonwealth's Attorneys, Susan

Speckert and Elizabeth Davis. Ms. Speckert and Ms. Davis were actually right in the middle of a rape trial, but the attorneys still generously took time during one of their few short breaks to discuss their domestic abuse and child pornography areas of expertise.

The class was then joined by Chief Circuit Judge Sheila Isaacs, who described the court structure, and also discussed the dilemma faced by judges concerning the issues of rehabilitation versus incarceration, and entertained questions from the class.

Upon leaving the Courthouse, the class walked across the street to the Police Department. While touring the Department, the group learned about accident reconstruction, the dispatching process, 9-1-1 intake, motorcycle and equine units, etc. Outside, tours were also taken of the Department's highly sophisticated vehicular units. Tim Russell described the homicide investigation and decontamination functions of the Mobile Crime Scene Investigation Lab, and new Chief of Police Ronnie Bastin provided closing remarks.

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education.

After lunch the class was treated to a guided tour of the traditional Woodford Reserve production process. Our able guide, Jim Surbeck, walked us through the creation of this internationally renowned small-batch bourbon, from grains and burbling yeast mixtures to handcrafted oak barrels in a 200-year old stone warehouse, where the spirits 'sleep' for four to seven years. Our tour ended at the Visitor's Center with a lesson in true bourbon appreciation - "the aroma of vanilla, caramel, and toffee with a hint of citrus, followed by the taste of toffee, roasted nuts, delicate butterscotch, vanilla, peach, and aromatic spices, ending with a long, sweet, and dry finish."

Then, it was on to the UK Animal Research Center, the Woodford County farmland purchased in late 1991 for development of state-of-the-art food animal research programs. The Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station has been providing research results to farmers and rural residents for more than 130 years, with external grants and contracts now reaching over \$31 million per year. Michael Duckworth, the county's former agricultural extension agent, and Dr. Jim, showed us their sheep and cattle

units. Their programs are focused on the ability of Kentucky's farmers to be competitive in domestic and world markets. Research activities encompass new economic opportunities for Kentucky communities, survival of the family farm, sustainable use of soil and water, food safety and quality, and the employment of new technologies in food animal production.

Our next stop was Kentucky's only college for women - Midway College. The charming campus was originally established as the Midway Female Orphan School by Dr. L.L. Pinkerton in 1847. Jeremy Scarbrough, Associate Vice President for College Relations and Development, explained how the school's original mission to respond promptly to the community's needs informs their current development. In addition to their resident program, the College offers accelerated degree completion programs for working adults statewide in partnership with KCTCS. The recent addition of an MBA program and a series of public seminars on Homeland Security and the Private Sector illustrate the school's ongoing commitment to quickly develop new programs in response to the larger community's educational needs.

A quick drive through downtown Midway was enhanced by the able commentary of our classmate Ann Daugherty, one of Midway's proudest residents. Divided by the railroad tracks, the block-long street boasts five-star restaurants, antique stores and galleries along with the original Thoroughbred Theatre. The city, with a population of only 1,620, is facing what may be its greatest challenge - a proposed residential development of up to 700 homes within city limits. Midway is known for the commitment of its citizens to preserving their community assets through careful and proactive planning and strategic action. How they adapt to the potential doubling of their numbers will provide an educational experience for us all.

Thank you to Marnie Walters, Director of Guest Services at Woodford Distillery and Karen Kasacavage, Executive Director, Woodford County Library who served as our Day Chairs. The class is grateful to our hosts and sponsors for the day - Joe Graviss McDonald's, Falling Springs Arts & Recreation Center, the UK Animal Research Center, KCTCS, Midway College, Woodford Reserve Distillery, and the Woodford County Chamber of Commerce.