



NEWS RELEASE

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To: Greenville (SC) Media Outlets

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Some 195 Bluegrass business professionals, elected officials & community leaders to visit Greenville, South Carolina, June 15-17

(Lexington, Kentucky) – On **June 15-17**, Commerce Lexington Inc. and many of this community's key leaders and business professionals will embark on the organization's annual Leadership Visit presented by Chase / J.P. Morgan. About 195 people are scheduled to participate in the 2011 trip to Greenville, South Carolina, to study that city's successes and challenges in the hopes of further enhancing the Bluegrass Region.

One of the longest-running and largest intercity visits of its kind among chambers of commerce and economic development groups nationally, Commerce Lexington's annual trip has led to the creation of numerous community initiatives and programs. Things like the Fayette Education Foundation, Coldstream Research Park, the Access Loan small business financing program, and even Lexington's garbage and recycling programs are takeaways from past Leadership Visits.

Commerce Lexington Inc. 2011 Chairman of the Board **Harry Richart** of PNC Bank said, "This year, we will be putting a big emphasis on studying **how** Greenville has transformed itself over the years. We'll be challenging participants to make note of the most effective programs, initiatives, processes, and behaviors that have led to Greenville's success. Our trip planning committee has injected a variety of on-site Discovery Sessions, where attendees will be able to explore key places within the city and hear from the people who made them happen."

The list of Discovery Sessions on the agenda for Thursday, June 16, includes:

- A.J. Whittenberg Elementary School & the Kroc Community Center
- Clemson University's International Center for Automotive Research (CU-ICAR)
- Tour of key downtown development projects
- Tour of Falls Park and the Liberty Bridge led by Greenville Mayor Knox White
- NEXT Innovation Center
- Metropolitan Arts Council to hear about public art
- Self-Guided downtown walking tour of Greenville's Mice on Main

Among the Bluegrass leaders making the trip are **Lexington Mayor Jim Gray** and **Vice Mayor Linda Gorton**, new University of Kentucky President **Dr. Eli Capilouto**, and new Lexington Convention & Visitors Bureau President **Jim Browder**, as well as educational representatives from Bluegrass Community & Technical College, Fayette County Public Schools, Transylvania University, and a variety of regional business and industry leaders.

An agenda of the visit and other supporting documents are available at the following web link: <http://leadershipvisit.commercelexington.com>, or people can follow our Twitter Updates at www.twitter.com/CommerceLex or participate on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LeadershipVisit.

TRAVEL NOTES: The Bluegrass delegation will arrive on Wednesday, June 15, at approximately 9:45 a.m. at BMW's Zentrum Auditorium. The group's home base of operations throughout the trip will be the Hyatt Regency Greenville (220 North Main Street, Greenville 29601).

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