Grantmakers of Kentucky 8th Annual Meeting
August 1–2, 2018 | Bowling Green, KY

Fertile Ground
Nurturing Kentucky’s Next Generation

GRANTMAKERS OF KENTUCKY
In Partnership with the SOUTHEASTERN COUNCIL OF FOUNDATIONS
About the Program

**About the 8th Annual Meeting:** This year’s conference theme – Fertile Ground: Nurturing Kentucky’s Next Generation – will focus on education, youth development and other issues central to the future of the commonwealth. Through site visits, speakers and sessions, you’ll learn about innovative projects and initiatives that are helping children and families succeed, while also examining the challenges that remain. We’ll talk about what philanthropy is doing today – and what it needs to do going forward.

At the center of this year’s Annual Meeting will be our main venue, The Gatton Academy, a residential program for bright, highly motivated Kentucky high school students who have demonstrated interest in pursuing advanced careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Housed on the campus of Western Kentucky University, students take college classes, engage in faculty-led research, and have the ability to study abroad.

This year’s Annual Meeting will also deliver critical updates on public policy at both the federal and state levels and provide you the opportunity to learn more about the commonwealth’s third-largest city and all of south central Kentucky.

**About Grantmakers of Kentucky:** Grantmakers of Kentucky was created to help foster connections and cooperation among foundations and between funders and policy makers, as well as to inform grantmakers about the possibilities – and potential challenges – that lie ahead in our state. Through our programming, grantmakers have the opportunity to connect with their fellow Kentucky colleagues, share best practices, discover new resources and increase the state’s grantmaking impact.

**About the Southeastern Council of Foundations:** The Southeastern Council of Foundations (SECF) is one of the nation’s largest regional associations of grantmakers, serving more than 330 of the most dynamic foundations and corporate giving programs in the South. SECF works in partnership with members in 11 Southeastern states to serve, strengthen, promote and champion the South’s philanthropic voice and infrastructure through engaging programming, leadership development training, access to unique resources and invaluable connections. By encouraging insightful philanthropic collaboration, SECF creates opportunities to increase the region’s grantmaking impact and empower transformational community change.

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**Statement of Intent & Code of Conduct**

**SECF’s Mission Statement:** The Southeastern Council of Foundations serves, connects, strengthens and champions philanthropy and philanthropic infrastructure in the South.

**SECF’s Statement of Intent:** The Southeastern Council of Foundations strives to support Members and grantmakers with access to education, resources and networking by serving as a convener and facilitator, offering a diverse range of voices and perspectives. We do not endorse colleague organization views, but rather aim to provide access to a broad range of information and resources to increase grantmaking impact and develop philanthropic leaders throughout the region.

**SECF’s Code of Conduct:** The Southeastern Council of Foundations is composed of a broad and diverse membership of grantmakers. At our core, we are a community of grantmakers connecting with each other to improve the practice of grantmaking in the Southeast.

At our meetings and events, we also welcome visitors from other organizations – which are not members – that participate as presenters or participants. SECF strives to create a comfortable place for all Members, visitors, and others engaged in philanthropy to exchange experiences and ideas and engage in conversations that are welcoming and of benefit to all participants. As such, SECF is not a venue for grant seekers, fundraisers, or other types of charitable solicitations during any of its meetings, events or through its publications nor is it an appropriate venue to conduct political activities. We ask that our Members and visitors not solicit at SECF-sponsored events or programs and that Members and visitors not use information obtained through their SECF membership or participation in SECF events for charitable, business or other solicitations outside of those events.
Welcome Kentucky Grantmakers

Fellow Kentucky Grantmakers,

We are so excited to have you join us for our 8th Annual Meeting – and our first in Bowling Green!

Every Grantmakers of Kentucky meeting is strongly inspired by its location, and our 2018 meeting is no exception. After deciding to convene this year in Bowling Green, we quickly gravitated toward The Gatton Academy, a national leader in STEM education, as the venue for this year’s sessions and speakers. From there, it became clear that our overall focus would be on our state’s greatest asset – its children.

Education regularly tops the list of areas grantmakers support. According to the most recent data available, annual grants toward education topped $39.2 million in Kentucky alone. Philanthropic investment has undoubtedly helped countless schools and students, but statistics make it clear that there is plenty of room for improvement at both the statewide and national levels.

What are the most effective ways grantmakers can support education and child development? What innovations and trends in the world of education should we be looking at as we plan for the future? How can philanthropy best work with partners in the private and public sectors to promote academic success? These are only a few of the questions we hope to address here in Bowling Green.

While the focus and venue of this meeting changes year to year, one constant for the Grantmakers of Kentucky has been the importance of public policy. This year, we’re happy to be joined by experts on both statewide and federal policies affecting foundations and their grantees.

Finally, for those of you not familiar with this part of the Commonwealth, this is a chance for you to learn more about Bowling Green and South Central Kentucky. Thanks to site visits and a conversation with one of the area’s philanthropic leaders, Katherine Sikora, we expect you’ll come away with a strong appreciation for our state’s third-largest city and its surroundings, and the great work happening here.

Thank you for the input you have provided as we worked to build this meeting – and thank you for your support of the Grantmakers of Kentucky!

Sincerely,
The Grantmakers of Kentucky Planning Committee

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Planning for Future Success

We want to hear your feedback – please check your email the day following this event to participate in a brief survey on the 2018 Grantmakers of Kentucky Annual Conference.

Your responses help ensure the continued success of this event!
Program Agenda

Day One - Wednesday, August 1

12:00pm  Lunch (on your own)

1:00pm  Site Visits (bus will depart from the Hyatt Place Hotel)
  • The Foundry: A Christian community center, The Foundry’s mission is to develop leaders among the children and young people of the West End of Bowling Green through education, health and fitness, and spiritual development.
  • Hope House: A faith-based organization that, among other activities, teaches financial literacy and works in local prisons to help inmates gain employment upon release.
  • Lost River Cave: This seven-mile cave system gets its name from the river that begins outside the cave and flows into it. The cave has a rich history, including serving as a nightclub from the 1930s into the 1960s. After falling into decline, the cave site was restored in the 1990s through the work of local nonprofits and Western Kentucky University.

5:00pm  Return to Hotel via bus

5:30pm  Bus departs hotel for reception at Baker Aboretum and The Downing Museum
  Baker Aboretum overlooks Bowling Green and the Western Kentucky University campus. Attendees are welcome to take a self-guided tour of The Downing Museum, which displays a vast collection of artwork by the late Joe Downing, a WKU alumnus, as well as works by other artists.

7:30pm  Bus returns to Hyatt Place Hotel.
  (Attendees will be provided with a list of dinner options near the hotel.)

Day Two - Thursday, August 2

PLEASE NOTE: All sessions and meals will take place at The Gatton Academy, a short walk from the Hyatt Place. We encourage you to complete checkout before walking over. You may leave your bags at the hotel during the conference.

8:00am  Registration & Light Breakfast

8:45am  Welcoming Remarks
  Trisha Finnegan, Community Foundation of Louisville
  Dr. Lynette Breedlove and Dr. Julia Link Roberts, The Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky

9:00am  Opening Keynote: Gene Wilhoit, Center for Innovation in Education

10:00am  Panel Discussion: Local Education Reform
  Tess McNair, Executive Director, C.E.& S. Foundation
  Tony Peyton, Program Director, C.E.& S. Foundation
  Kathy Zandona, Consultant, Z Consulting
  Mason Rummel, James Graham Brown Foundation (moderator)

11:00am  Break

11:15am  State Policies Affecting Nonprofits: Danielle Clore, Executive Director, Kentucky Nonprofit Network

12:00pm  Local Philanthropist Spotlight (includes lunch)
  Katherine Sikora, Trustee, Laura Goad Turner Charitable Foundation
  Pete Bird, The Frist Foundation (moderator)

1:00pm  Break

1:15pm  Tour of The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky
  Dr. Lynette Breedlove and Dr. Julia Link Roberts, The Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky

2:00pm  Closing Keynote and Interview
  Jeff Moore, Chief Strategy Officer, Independent Sector
  Mason Rummel, James Graham Brown Foundation (moderator)

2:45pm  Wrap-up and closing remarks
  Kathy Knotts, The Gheens Foundation

3:00pm  Adjourn & Departures
Speaker Profiles

Pete Bird  CEO, The Frist Foundation

Pete Bird has served as chief executive officer of The Frist Foundation since 2002. He has been with the foundation since 1983, serving as senior program officer before assuming the top job.

Originally from Indianapolis, Bird holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism and did post-graduate study at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Business.

In the 1970s, he served as city editor of The Jackson Sun newspaper in West Tennessee before becoming business news editor of the Nashville Banner, where he worked from 1976 to 1981. He then served as senior vice president of Commerce Union Corporation (now Bank of America), where he handled strategic planning and communications, before joining The Frist Foundation.

Bird is a graduate of Leadership Nashville and serves on the boards of the Center for Nonprofit Management, Leadership Nashville and The HCA Foundation. He is also treasurer of the Frist Center for the Visual Arts Foundation.

Unusually, The Frist Foundation began as a corporate foundation in 1982, then became an independent foundation in 1995 after a change in corporate ownership, then became a family foundation in 2004 with the addition of three members of the Frist family to the governing board.

With more than $300 million in assets, The Frist Foundation is the largest private foundation in Middle Tennessee. The foundation is a place-based grantmaker, awarding more than $17 million in grants in 2017, the largest of which went to Nashville Zoo and the Frist Center for the Visual Arts.

Dr. Lynette Breedlove  Director, The Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky

Lynette Breedlove is the director of The Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky. Before relocating to Bowling Green, Dr. Breedlove served as the director of advanced academic studies and secondary counseling in Spring Branch ISD, a K-12 school district serving 34,000 students in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Breedlove has held various roles in public education, from classroom teacher and gifted education specialist, to central office administrator. She has been active in gifted education at the local, state and national levels, conducting professional development presentations and parent workshops across Texas and beyond. She currently serves as president-elect of The Association of the Gifted (a division of the Council for Exceptional Children) and as chair-elect of the Special Schools and Programs Network of the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC). Having served as a president of the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented (TAGT), Dr. Breedlove is excited now to serve as treasurer of the Kentucky Association for Gifted Education (KAGE).

Dr. Breedlove earned a bachelor’s degree at Rhodes College, a master’s degree at University of St. Thomas (Houston), and a Ph.D. in educational psychology with a specialization in intelligence, creativity, and giftedness at Texas A&M University. She is married and has two sons. Her husband teaches elementary students in Warren County. Her oldest son lives in Texas, and her youngest son’s passion for ice hockey keeps her family on the go.

Danielle Clore  Executive Director/CEO, Kentucky Nonprofit Network

Danielle Tharp Clore is the executive director/CEO of Kentucky Nonprofit Network (KNN). Prior to founding KNN in 2002, Danielle held leadership positions at the Commonwealth Fund for KET, Eastern Kentucky University, Special Olympics Kentucky and Christian Care Communities. She was recognized in 2017 by Women Leading Kentucky with the Martha Layne Collins Leadership Award and was a 2015 finalist for the Excellence in Advocacy Award by the Professional Women in Advocacy Conference, Washington D.C. She is a 2012 graduate of Leadership Kentucky. She holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Transylvania University and a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Kentucky Martin School of Public Administration. Danielle’s current community service work includes public policy committee member, National Council of Nonprofits; advisory council member, Murray State University Nonprofit Leadership Studies program; and finance committee member, St. Michael’s Episcopal Church. Previous community service includes chair of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass Board of Directors; United Way of the Bluegrass Get on Board Advisory Council; Family Counseling Service Board of Directors; and the Kentucky Commission on Women Foundation Board of Directors.
Speaker Profiles

**Tess McNair  Executive Director, C.E. and S. Foundation**

Tess joined the C.E. and S. Foundation in 2010 as a program officer focused primarily on integrating the foundation’s education-related interests at the local and national level. In 2014, she assumed the role of executive director. Prior to joining the C.E. and S. Foundation, Tess focused her career in the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors of the health care industry, working for companies including Humana, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, and HCA Healthcare. Her expertise is in communications, organization effectiveness, performance and process improvement, and executive leadership strategy. Tess is an appointee to the Jefferson Community and Technical College Nominating Committee and is actively involved with many of the Louisville community’s education-focused initiatives. She is a member of the boards of directors of the Greater Louisville Project and the Center for Non-Profit Excellence. She is a graduate of Vanderbilt University.

**Jeff Moore  Chief Strategy Officer, Independent Sector**

Jeff Moore serves as chief strategy officer, supporting the organization’s critical strategic visioning efforts as it guides the sector to meet the future needs of democratic society. He is a senior leader with broad experience in the nonprofit field, government and industry. He most recently served in an executive role in the health-systems research field.

Jeff has served as a senior advisor to the Secretary of Defense and as legislative director to Congressman Thomas J. Downey (D-NY). In each of his positions, he has built critical partnerships and alliances that have accelerated organizational and mission success. His leadership style – he was described by one of his former board members as being “the weaver of the cloth” – and career experiences create a unique foundation for advancing critical thinking, strategic development and organizational performance.

Jeff considers his Distinguished Civilian Service Award, presented in 1998 by Secretary of Defense William Cohen, to be among his greatest career achievements. Cohen honored Moore at the end of his tenure in the Clinton administration for his contributions to the nation’s security and his unique ability to build bridges between U.S. government agencies, the U.S. private sector and foreign governments.

**Tony Peyton  Program Director, C.E. and S. Foundation**

Tony is the program director at the C.E. and S. Foundation. Before joining the C.E. and S. Foundation, Tony served on Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer’s senior staff as the director of public policy. Part of that role included developing and managing the mayor's education initiatives. He also served as the primary liaison for the mayor with education institutions and organizations (locally and nationally). Prior to working for Mayor Fischer, Tony was the senior director of policy and government relations at the National Center for Families Learning (NCFL). There he was responsible for directing NCFL’s federal and state policy, lobbying and advocacy activities. Tony serves on the National Board of Advisors of the Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy at Penn State University. Tony received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Louisville as well as completing the Certificate Program in Legislative Studies at Georgetown University’s Government Affairs Institute.

**Dr. Julia Link Roberts  Mahurin Professor of Gifted Studies, Western Kentucky University, and Executive Director, The Center for Gifted Studies and The Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky**

Julia Link Roberts is the Mahurin Professor of Gifted Studies and the Executive Director of The Center for Gifted Studies and The Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky. During the celebration of Western Kentucky University’s centennial in 2006, Dr. Roberts was honored for her work by being named one of the 100 gifts WKU has given to the world. She is an active advocate for gifted children at the state, national and international levels. For her advocacy work, she received the first-ever David W. Belin Advocacy Award from the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) in 2001. In Profiles of Influence in Gifted Education (Pufrock, 2004), Dr. Roberts was described as one of the 55 most influential people in the field of gifted education. Dr. Roberts is a leader in gifted education serving on the boards of the Kentucky Association for Gifted Education and The Association for the Gifted (a division of the Council for Exceptional Children); and she is president of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children. She is chairperson of Kentucky’s State Advisory Counsel for Gifted Education. Dr. Roberts enjoys the opportunity to direct summer and Saturday programs for hundreds of young people, something she has done each year for more than 30 years. She graduated from the University of Missouri and then earned a master’s degree and her Ed.D. at Oklahoma State University. Dr. Roberts is married to Dr. Richard Roberts. They have two daughters, Stacy Moots and Julie Boggess, and they enjoy four granddaughters – Elizabeth, Caroline, Jane Ann and Claire.
Katherine Sikora  
**Trustee, Laura Goad Turner Charitable Foundation**

Katherine W. Sikora is a trustee and vice chairman of the Board of the Laura Goad Turner Foundation, where she has served since 2004. The foundation focuses its philanthropic investments in the Bowling Green/Scottsdale area of Kentucky, the original home of Dollar General, which is the source of the foundation’s assets. Katherine also serves on numerous other boards, including Skypac, a state-of-the-art performing arts center in Bowling Green, the LTD Community Foundation and Bowling Green Technology.

In addition to her passion for philanthropy, Katherine successfully owned and operated Clubhouse Golf & Tennis, Too and a retail shopping center for two decades. Katherine has a bachelor’s degree in business management from Sullivan College of Business. She has won state championships in golf but enjoys playing with friends for fun as well.

Katherine and her husband, Andy, live in Bowling Green. They are the proud parents of four children.

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Gene Wilhoit  
**Executive Director, Center for Innovation in Education**

Gene Wilhoit is a founding partner of the Center for Innovation in Education at the University of Kentucky, which he helped establish after spending a lifetime as an educator at the local, state and national levels. Gene served as executive director of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) from 2006 until 2013, during which he spearheaded the states’ collective action to establish college and career ready learning standards, marshaled a comprehensive restructuring of teacher and leader supports, including consensus on preparation reform, stimulated state actions to improve data systems and founded the multi-state Innovation Lab Network.

From 1994 to 2006, Gene led two state education agencies as director of the Arkansas Department of Education and, then, commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education. Gene began his career as a social studies teacher in Ohio and Indiana. He served in the Indiana Department of Education, as an administrator in Kanawha County, West Virginia, as a special assistant in the U.S. Department of Education and as executive director of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). Gene holds degrees from Georgetown College and Indiana University. He is a member of numerous education organizations, serves on several boards, has served on national and state commissions and has written and spoken on a variety of education issues.

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Kathy Zandona  
**Vice President of Network Engagement, The Graduate! Network**

Kathy Zandona is the vice president of network engagement with The Graduate! Network. She focuses on engaging the business community and providing technical assistance to new member communities. Kathy is also a consultant for Z Consulting, a company she started in January 2014. She provides education and workforce development consulting to help business and community leaders see the potential for improving the educational attainment of their citizens. Prior to starting her own company Kathy was the vice president of education and workforce development for Greater Louisville, Inc. (GLI), the metro chamber of commerce, where she was responsible for connecting the business community with our educational systems – Pre-K to Ph.D. She served as GLI’s key liaison in the community-wide collaborative of increasing educational attainment leading to the signing of the Greater Louisville Education commitment and the formation of 55,000 Degrees. A graduate of the University of Kentucky, Kathy has extensive background in meeting facilitation, leadership training and development and organizational development.
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