



Commonwealth of Kentucky Personnel Cabinet

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2018 EEO, Diversity & Leadership Conference: Enthusiasm, Commitment, Collaboration

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Oct. 24, 2018) - The 2018 Equal Employment Opportunity, Diversity, and Leadership Conference opened to a full house today at the newly renovated Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville.

Marked enthusiasm among those in attendance reinforces why this 32nd annual conference continues in popularity and has more than tripled in the last three years to more than 700 attendees.

Chris Johnson, Executive Director of the Personnel Cabinet's Office of Diversity, Equality, and Training, which hosts of the conference, affirmed, "This conference celebrates the Commonwealth's diversity and strengthens our resolve to work together - both public and private partners alike - to find innovative ways to grow purposely and inclusively."

"The energy in these rooms, and the engagement among participants is amazing," said Kentucky Personnel Cabinet Secretary Thomas Stephens. "This event has become a principal resource for collaboration and professional development among our business community. I couldn't be more honored to be a part of it."

Pre-conference workshops were held this morning, and the conference was officially opened with remarks from University of Louisville President Neeli Bendapudi, Kentucky

International Convention Center General Manager Stacey Church, and Commissioner of Agriculture Ryan F. Quarles.

President Bendapudi encouraged the group. "Our job as educators and leaders is to find ways to improve the lives of every citizen of this Commonwealth. It's difficult to be something you cannot see - people like you in positions of leadership is what we need."

Participants can attend workshops of their choosing in three different areas of interest - diversity, human resources, or legal. Presenters from public and private sector employers will share throughout the two days, and will include Lt. Governor Jenean Hampton, Education Commissioner Wayne Lewis, and senior representatives from Yum! Brands, Inc., Brown-Forman, Norton Healthcare, Humana, WAVE-TV, and others. Topics of discussion will include substance abuse in the workplace, bias in hiring, employee engagement, sexual harassment, developing leaders, and much more.

The conference is one of the longest running of its kind in the country, celebrating the diversity of the Commonwealth, and serving as a learning opportunity for those interested in leadership, management, equal employment opportunity, and diversity. The event draws a cross section of attendees, including practitioners in the areas of human resources, diversity, management, law, education, and medicine.

More information, including a detailed conference agenda and a full list of speakers is available at eeoconference.ky.gov. Check the conference website for any shared presentations, handouts, videos, and pictures following the 2018 event.

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