

## REFLECTING ON CHAMBER PROGRAMS & EVENTS 2019:

The Chamber represents nearly 400 businesses, organizations, and individuals in the local area. The primary goal of the Chamber is to support members, the lifeblood of our organization, along with partnering with other entities to make the community a great place to visit and call home.

The following recaps many of the programs & events held by the Chamber over the past year...

### DOWNTOWN

- Quarterly Meet & Greets
- Hosted Downtown Retailer's Roundtable
- Kansas Day Promotion
- Good Ol' Days Parade
- Halloween Parade
- Christmas Parade
- Sales Tax Holiday Weekend
- September Merchant Madness Sidewalk Sale
- Nov & Dec Shopping Open Houses
- Small Business Saturday
- Sponsor Concerts in the Park
- Annually maintain Flags on Skubitz Plaza project

### LEGISLATIVE/GOVT. RELATIONS

- Co-hosted SEK Day on the Hill at the Capitol
- February Legislative Update Coffee
- March Legislative Update Event
- July Primary Election Candidate Forum
- October General Election Candidate Forum

### BUSINESS RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- Hosted Annual Dinner & Awards Celebration to recognize outstanding individuals & businesses
- Hosted 16th Annual Forks & Corks tasting event to promote local restaurants & other businesses
- Hosted Annual Chamber Golf Classic
- Met one-on-one w/Members to offer support on any issues including improving online presence.
- Maintain fortscott.com site promoting members
- Hosted Effective Leadership Bill Drury Seminar
- Hosted multiple Google Livestream Events
- Graduated 12 LEAD Bourbon County Participants
- Organized weekly Chamber Coffees
- Hosted a number of Ribbon Cutting and After-hours Events
- Created Business Locator Map
- Promoted the Chamber & Community @ Annual Home Sport Farm & Garden Show
- Held Grant Writing Workshop w/K-State Extension
- Sold over \$3,000 in Chamber Bucks to be spent at local retailers & restaurants
- Distribute Table Tent Calendars bi-monthly

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Partnered with FSHS on Student Mentor Program
- Hosted April Job Fair
- Hosted WorkReady Employer Luncheon
- Co-hosted MFG Day with FSCC & City of Fort Scott
- Distributed monthly Help Wanted Job Flyers
- Posted over 250 "Job of the Day" Postings
- Maintain rental housing & landlord listing

### COMMUNITY

- Participated in the First Impressions program & hosted outcome presentation
- Spring & Fall Town-wide Garage Sales
- Hosted FSHS State Debate Hospitality
- Organized Christmas Light Contest
- Held Dolly Hollyday Christmas Light Trolley Tours
- Chamber Compass weekly radio program (Tuesdays 6:50am to keep community informed)
- Maintain Bike Share free take & ride program

# 2019 IN REVIEW

SUPPORTING COMMERCE.  
BUILDING COMMUNITY.  
PROMOTING SPIRIT.



## 2019 WAS A STELLAR YEAR FOR THE CHAMBER!

**Core programs were implemented to build on two key components of enhancing the local economic environment: Entrepreneurship and Workforce Development.**

### BOURBON COUNTY E-COMMUNITY

**Access to locally controlled funds\* administered by the Chamber through Network Kansas to support qualifying entrepreneurial projects including startup businesses, as well as existing business purchases and/or expansions.**

Loan Applications Processed & Approved July 1 to December 31:

- Smallville CrossFit (Watts Fitness) E-Community Loan\* \$40,000
- Luther's BBQ E-Community Loan\* \$45,000
- Smallville CrossFit (Watts Fitness) StartUp Kansas Loan \$25,000
- Luther's BBQ StartUp Kansas Loan \$30,000
- Margo's, LLC (Structure Salon & Spa) E-Community Loan\* \$39,000

Total Funds Injected into the Community: \$179,000

Other E-Community Programs hosted by the Chamber July 1 to December 31:

- Lender/Realtor Luncheon to educate on the loan program opportunities.
- Entrepreneur Appreciation Luncheon during GEW
- Semi-monthly local newspaper ads promoting loans available for businesses.
- Planning for YEC - Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge in partnership with FSHS, judging to be held March 2020.

### WORKREADY COMMUNITY

**Links workforce development to education.  
Aligns with the economic development needs of communities, regions and states.  
Matches individuals to jobs based on skill levels.**

*BOURBON COUNTY WAS "LIT" AS A WORKREADY COMMUNITY SEPTEMBER 2019, VISIT [WORKREADY.ORG](http://WORKREADY.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION.*

- In partnership with Bourbon County, USD234, USD235, FSCC, City of Uniontown and local employers, a group of 10 attended the required Boot Camp in August 2019.
- Kansas implemented state-wide for high school Juniors to take the WorkKeys test and earn a NCRC certificate. Our mission is to educate employers on WorkKeys and the Certificate meaning to improve hiring practices, close the skills gap, and improve student success in landing a career after high school.

**THANK YOU TO ALL CHAMBER MEMBERS FOR INVESTING IN THE WORK OF THE CHAMBER AND THE FORT SCOTT, BOURBON COUNTY COMMUNITY! SHOUT-OUT TO THE CHAMBER BOARD & MANY, MANY VOLUNTEERS WHO MAKE THESE PROGRAMS & EVENTS POSSIBLE.**

**FORT SCOTT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
[FORTSCOTT.COM](http://FORTSCOTT.COM) | 620.223.3566  
[INFORMATION@FORTSCOTT.COM](mailto:INFORMATION@FORTSCOTT.COM)**