

## Campbellsville University to offer Public Leadership Certificate Program

CAMPBELLSVILLE — Campbellsville University and One Cross Health have come together to introduce the Public Leadership Certificate Program, designed to prepare Kentucky's future leaders with the skills, vision and values needed to build stronger communities, foster economic growth and advance the American Dream.

Community stakeholders looking for skills and solutions to issues facing their communities can take advantage of a new program that's starting at Campbellsville University next month. The one-day program will be delivered on campus by Campbellsville University faculty and professional practitioners. The first cohort will begin on Monday, December 15, at the university's Heilman Welcome Center.

Kim McKenna, president and CEO of One Cross Health, noted, "I've come to understand that everything rises and falls on leadership. That's why I'm so passionate about sponsoring the Public Leadership Certificate Program at Campbellsville University."

McKenna added the program represents an opportunity "to cultivate leaders who lead with authenticity, humility, and purpose."

"I'm thrilled to see this kind of leadership development happening right here in Campbellsville, equipping local leaders to make a lasting impact across Kentucky and beyond," she said.

Dr. Roger Huston, CU's assistant vice president for strategic relations and rural advancement, said, "The partnership between Campbellsville University and One Cross Health emerged from shared values and a recognition that authentic leadership is essential for advancing the American Dream in rural Kentucky."

Participants will learn to drive community growth through bottom-up development approaches and systems thinking. Using an asset-based framework, they'll explore ways to create practical, holistic solutions to complex local challenges.

"The Public Leadership Certificate Program is an amazing opportunity for leaders to hone their skills for the public good," Huston added. "This program would not have been possible without our partners at One Cross Health, and we are very appreciative of their passion for supporting our community."

One Cross Health is sponsoring the program, while the Kentucky Association for Economic Development (KAED), the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Executives (KCCE), the Kentucky City/County Management Association (KCCMA), and the Kentucky Rural Education Association (KREA) are partners in the program.

Terri Bradshaw, president and CEO of the Kentucky Association for Economic Development (KAED), explained, "KAED is proud to partner with Campbellsville University to equip Kentucky's leaders with the skills and vision needed to strengthen communities and expand opportunity."

She added, "Through CU's Public Leadership Certificate and Rural Advancement initiatives, we're helping more

Kentuckians achieve social mobility, foster economic growth, and make the American Dream attainable in every corner of the Commonwealth."

According to Huston, the uniqueness of the program lies in its values-based approach and accessibility in promoting stronger leadership for Kentucky communities. Costs for the program are \$299 for non-members, \$199 for KAED, KCCE, KCCMA and KREA members, and \$99 for students. To register for the program, visit <https://cca.kaedonline.org/EvtListing.aspx>.

Huston noted the program is still taking registrations. He also noted that additional dates to offer this course will be announced at a later date.

He emphasized that the initiative is designed for local leaders and stakeholders involved in community and economic growth - including economic and community developers, elected officials, administrators, educators, and directors from chambers of commerce, tourism, Main Street, and nonprofit organizations, as well as local business owners.

"The benefits are clear: participants gain access to networking and partnerships with leaders across diverse sector-creating meaningful cross-community collaboration, are equipped to make real community impact by strengthening civic institutions, driving holistic initiatives, and through training leaders who embrace systems thinking and asset-based development, communities gain long-term, sustainable strategies for growth and resilience."

According to Huston, the program is designed to address rural economic stagnation and social mobility barriers, complex and interconnected local issues, and leadership pipeline gaps in Kentucky's rural communities.

CU President Dr. Joseph Hopkins reflected on the collaboration's impact in preparing leaders to drive growth and opportunity throughout Kentucky.

"It just seems right that One Cross Health has partnered with our Rural Advancement program to present the Public Leadership Certificate," Hopkins stated. "Since One Cross was established, they have demonstrated uncommon public leadership and service to our community. Together, we aim to help more rural Kentuckians experience the American dream."

For more information about the program and CU's Rural Advancement program, visit <https://www.campbellsville.edu/academics/rural-advancement/>.

## St. Francis Class of 1965 reunion



Photo courtesy of Mike Cecil

Loretto's St. Francis High School class of 1965 held its 60th class reunion earlier this year.

## Brooke Ballew recognized at Midway University Pinning Ceremony

MIDWAY — Midway University honored its Associate Degree in Nursing graduates during a Nursing Pinning Ceremony held on campus last week. The ceremony marked the culmination of the graduates'

academic journey and their transition from student nurses to professional nurses.

As part of the ceremony, Brooke Ballew of Lebanon was individually pinned by a selected family member

and loved one, a tradition symbolizing both professional responsibility and personal support. Graduates also received apricot roses, the internationally recognized color of the nursing discipline.

## ECTC makes 2025 Military Times Best for Vets list

ELIZABETHTOWN. — Elizabethtown Community and Technical College has been named to the 2025 Military Times Best for Vets: Colleges list. This is ECTC's fifth time making the list, which includes colleges evaluated with the most comprehensive school-by-school assessment of veteran and military student services and found exemplary.

"ECTC is committed to working together with military service members, veterans and their families to connect them with services and resources needed to help them achieve their goals," said Director of Military and Veterans Services Tabbi Stutzenberger. "They are an important part of our campus family, and our faculty and staff pride ourselves on providing these students the best experience possible at the college."

Higher education institutions throughout the country are invited by Military Times to complete a rigorous survey about costs, programs, policies and services involving military-connected students. Institutions are evaluated on academic quality, student support services,

affordability, and outcomes for veterans, including graduation and retention rates.

"For 15 years, Best for Vets has helped transitioning service members find schools that not only welcome veterans but actively invest in their success," said Jon Simkins, Executive Editor of Military Times and Sightline Media Group. "The record-breaking participation this year shows that higher education leaders are listening and working to create environments where

veterans can thrive academically and personally."

ECTC is the only two-year college in the state of Kentucky named to the list, among 357 other colleges and universities across the country.

"Our military and military-connected populations deserve all the respect and support we can provide," Stutzenberger said. "Earning this designation is proof that our hard work is creating a real difference in their lives."

ECTC staff who con-

tributed to the Best for Vets submission include Stutzenberger, MVS Academic Advisor Lisa Hinton, the MVS team, Strategic Planning Assessment, Research, & Compliance team Sarah Edwards and Stephanie Keeler, Registrar Bryan Smith, Vice President of Human Resources Whitney Taylor, Financial Specialist Missy Milby, and the marketing team.

For more information on ECTC's Military and Veterans Services, visit [ectc.us/mvs](http://ectc.us/mvs).

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### INVESTMENTS

**I want to start on my new year financial plans early. What things should I be thinking about for 2026?**

This is a great practice to begin planning early in the year for your goal accomplishment! Some basics to consider. If you haven't begun your will, living will, and power of attorney, get with your attorney in the new year to prepare. Take a video of everything in and outside of your home for documentation purposes in the event of a catastrophic loss and email to yourself each year. Check to see if your 401k plan or other retirement vehicle allows for you to save under the Roth side. If so remember the company match and in service conversions will start in 2026. Consider gifting more as there are more deduction opportunities that come from the new legislation put forth under the Administration's new tax policy. Add an umbrella policy above your car and home insurance for liability protection beyond the underlying limits. Set up your social security account to protect your benefits. And consider funding your health savings account in 2026 if available.



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