

Kingsport Chamber

News Release

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Vanessa Bennett and Kingsport Leadership programs receive TACL state awards



KINGSPORT, Tenn – The **Tennessee Association of Community Leadership (TACL)** has awarded **Vanessa Bennett** with the **Robert Smith Outstanding Tennessee Leadership Educator Award** and **Kingsport Leadership Programs** with **Outstanding Leadership Program** for its 2021 Awards.

“I am very honored by these awards,” remarked Bennett. “The programs’ success comes from our participants, our supporters and our staff.”

Bennett, executive director of operations & talent development at the Kingsport Chamber, oversees Leadership Kingsport, PEAK (Professionals Engaged in Advancing Kingsport) for young professionals, S.H.O.U.T.! (Students Helping Others Understand Tomorrow) for talented high school students, Mayor’s Y.E.L.L. (Youth Engaged in Leadership and Learning) Youth Council for selected high school students with an interest in serving their school and community, S.C.R.E.A.M. (Students Creating Real Engagement and Motivation) for middle school students and Leadership Live—a new podcast highlighting regional community members to inspire and motivate engagement in the community.

“The common denominator in all of the programs is the infectious attitude of Vanessa Bennett,” said Jeff Fleming, former Kingsport city manager and current relocation manager of Move to Kingsport. “She pours her soul into each class and the students reciprocate. It’s so much more than a job for her. It’s a passion.”

TACL is a volunteer-based organization “that builds, supports, and enhances community leadership,” according to its mission statement.

The Robert M. Smith Outstanding Tennessee Leadership Educator Award is presented to an individual who has dedicated their time to making positive changes in the lives of participants and the community that they serve. The Outstanding Leadership Program Award is given to a program that continues to grow and makes a lasting impact on the community.

“We thrive to continue to provide community leadership opportunities for all ages of our community,” said Bennett. “If you know someone that wants to develop their leadership abilities, meet new people and learn how to give back to our community, I highly encourage our leadership programs. It is a family of community trustees.”

To get involved with these award-winning programs, contact Vanessa Bennett at vbennett@kingsportchamber.org or (423) 392-8813.

KINGSPORT CHAMBER

The **Kingsport Chamber** is composed of two non-profit organizations: the Kingsport Chamber Foundation (501(c)(3)) and Kingsport Chamber of Commerce (501(c)(6)).

The Kingsport Chamber Foundation manages, promotes, supports and assists a number of charitable, educational, environmental, leadership, quality of life and wellness programs that have a tremendous impact on the Kingsport community.

Programs of the Kingsport Chamber Foundation include: Communications & Development; Downtown Concert Series; Downtown Kingsport Association; Education & Workforce Development; Fun Fest; Healthy Kingsport; Keep Kingsport Beautiful; Kingsport Leadership Programs (Leadership Kingsport, PEAK Young Professionals, S.C.R.E.A.M.! and S.H.O.U.T.!® Youth Leadership); Kingsport Office of Small Business Development & Entrepreneurship (KOSBE); Move to Kingsport; Santa Train; Tennessee/Virginia Scholars; and Visit Kingsport.

The Kingsport Chamber of Commerce’s mission is to utilize resources and focus efforts on enhancing a strong and viable business environment for the Kingsport area.

Programs of the Kingsport Chamber of Commerce include: Communications & Development; Government Relations; and Membership. The Kingsport Chamber of Commerce has nearly 1,000 members.

For more information on the Kingsport Chamber, go to KingsportChamber.org or call (423) 392-8800. We’re social too; follow us on our **Facebook** page, **Your Kingsport Chamber**, our **Twitter** account, [@kptchamber](https://twitter.com/kptchamber), on **Instagram** or our **YouTube** channel.

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