

49th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

University of Louisville

10/23/2026

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

KENTUCKY ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION
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GENERAL INFORMATION

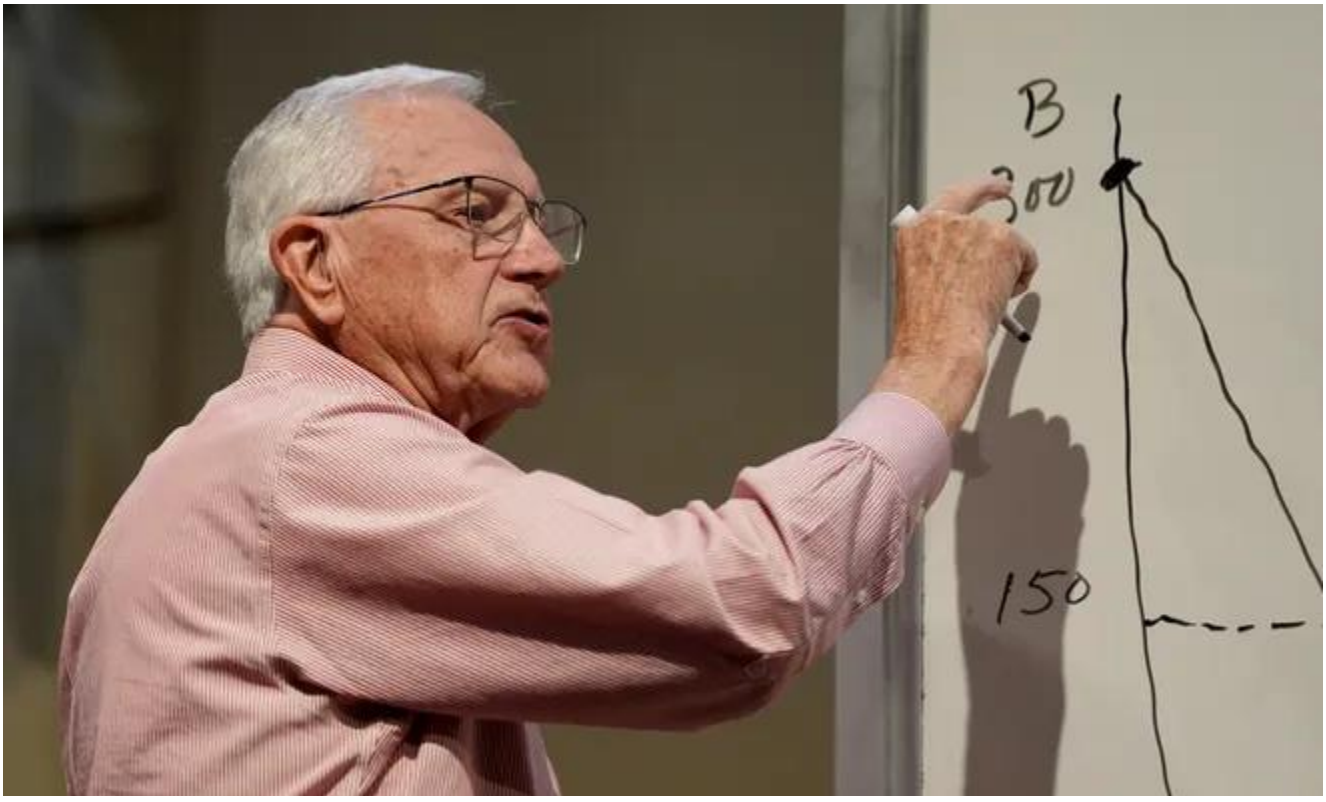
A PRECONFERENCE SOCIAL will be at Noble Funk, 922 South 2nd Street, Louisville, Ky 40203, starting at 6pm Thursday night. See map on the second to the last page of this document on how to get there from the UofL campus.

Breakfast food, and all conference sessions will be held in the College of Business Building, Harry Frazier Hall, on the University of Louisville campus. The luncheon and keynote speaker will be in the University Club near the College of Business. Signs will be posted, and a map is provided on the last page of this document.

Visitors to campus may park in the lot next to and to the left of the University Club. Parking is free. If the lot over fills, alternative parking can be arranged. See the map on last page.

2026 KENTUCKY DISTINGUISHED ECONOMIST

Dr. John P. Nelson
Professor Emeritus of Economics
University of Louisville



Dr. John P. Nelson retired from the University of Louisville in November 2024 after teaching there for 57 and one-half years. His job at UofL that he started in the 1960s was the only position he held since finishing his PhD in Economics coursework at the

University of Kentucky. During his long career, Dr. Nelson taught hundreds if not thousands of undergraduate and graduate students in the areas of microeconomics, macroeconomics, public finance, and history of economic thought. He was also department chair of the Department of Economics several times during his career as well as Director of the Urban Studies Institute at UofL. Dr. Nelson was also a key budget and policy adviser throughout his career to several Louisville Mayors and to the Louisville Board of Alderman. He played an important role as a policy analyst in the redevelopment of the Louisville International/Muhammad Ali Airport in the 1980s and 1990s as well other initiatives involving United Parcel Service's expansion in Louisville and initiatives to build a downtown Louisville arena.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
Friday October 23, 2026

8:05 AM – 9:00 AM Breakfast and Registration

Location: College of Business (COB), South Wing Entrance, floor and in front of Horn Auditorium on first floor.

Session chairs will usually be the last person presenting in a session. This person needs to ask another presenter to moderate her/his talk and keep time. Each presentation should be held to an appropriate time limit (10 to 15 minutes or so if only 3 presenters in a session, for example) with time left for questions. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee that remote scrolling works in each room, therefore, please be prepared to use the keyboard of the PCs in each room for your presentations.

Concurrent Sessions A
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM Concurrent Sessions A

Session A1: Urban, regional economics
Location: COB/BUS 118
Chair: Chris Phillips

Presenters: James Obielodan, Kentucky State University. "Kentucky Manufacturing Location Advantages and Investment Thresholds."

Lucas Taulbee, University of Kentucky. "Federal Housing Policy and Spatial Optimality."

Chris Phillips, KCTCS. "Comparing Gas Prices in Kentucky Counties."

Session A2: Healthcare Economics
Location: COB/BUS 123
Chair: Jose Fernandez

Presenters: Feda Mohammadi, Berea College. "Is Higher Income Associated with Better Health Everywhere? Evidence from Appalachian and Other U.S. Counties."

Jose Fernandez, University of Louisville. "Assessing the Impact of Occupational Tax Provision on Health Care Supply: The case of Puerto Rico's Act No. 14-2017."

Session A3: Public Economics and Public Policy
Location: COB/BUS 131
Chair: Chinmay Korgaonkar

Presenters: John Gbolo, University of Kentucky. "Federal Tax Reform and State Tax Structure: Tax Cuts & Jobs Act (TCJA) and State Tax Mix?"

Jamison McPherson, Western Kentucky University. "Beyond the Null: Reevaluating Upward Bound's Effectiveness with Augmented Inverse Probability Weighting."

Chinmay N. Korgaonkar, University of Kentucky. "Targeted Industrial Policy for Apparel Manufacturing: Evidence from India."

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM Concurrent Sessions B

Session B1: **Urban, Regional Economics and Quantitative Economics**
Location: COB/BUS 201
Chair: Nabila Rahman Biju

Presenters: Saratou Bako Bagassa, Berea College. "The Impact of Data Centers on Local Economies."

Mushfiq Mahim, Berea College. "Customer Base Change and Regulated Water Charges: Evidence from Kentucky Water Districts, 2019–2024."

Session B2: **Quantitative Economics, Game Theory, Econometrics**
Location: COB/BUS 205
Chair: Taeyoon Hwang

Presenters: Harper Stephens, University of Louisville. "Before the Factory Opens: Anticipation and Spatial Adjustment to Announced and Delayed Local Shocks."

Yong Chao, University of Louisville. "Random Selling: Experience Value and Learning from Failure."
Taeyoon Hwang, Western Kentucky University. "Robust Confidence Intervals for Partial Autocorrelations (and Autocorrelations) of Stationary Time Series."

Session B3: **Economic History**
Location: COB/BUS 211
Chair: Thomas Lambert

Presenters: Per Fredriksson, University of Louisville. "Climate and Women."

Peter Lin, Western Kentucky University. "Immigration and Child Mortality During the Age of Mass Migration."

Thomas Lambert, University of Louisville. "Horses and the Transition from Feudalism to Capitalism in Britain."

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Concurrent Sessions C

Session C1: Health and Education Economics and Teaching
Location: COB/BUS 131
Chair: Swagata "Ban" Banerjee

Presenters: Harper Stephens, University of Louisville. "Educational Technology and Cognitive Achievement: PISA 2018 Evidence on Technology Use and Student Performance."

Kangwook Noh, University of Kentucky. "Heterogeneous Returns to Sub-Baccalaureate Credentials: A Machine Learning Approach."

Swagata "Ban" Banerjee. "Generative AI and the Economics Classroom: Reframing Teaching, Assessment, and Human Capital Development."

Session C2: Labor Economics and Environmental Economics
Location: COB/BUS 205
Chair: Kevin Owens

Presenters: Haley Wilder, University of Kentucky. "Demographic Determinants of Earnings and Tenure in Economics: Do Institutional Characteristics Matter?"

Emmanuel Ayernor Tetteh, Western Kentucky University. "Spatial Dynamics of Stone Quarry-Induced Air Pollution (PM2.5): Causal Evidence from Selected Stone Quarry Sites in Ghana."

Kevin Owens, Western Kentucky University. "Better Player or Better Team? Mid-season Trades and Worker Productivity in the National Hockey League."

12:45 PM – 1:30 PM Luncheon, Acknowledgements, and Best Paper Awards
Location: University Club Ballroom

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM Opening Remarks, Introduction, and Keynote Speaker
Location: University Club Ballroom

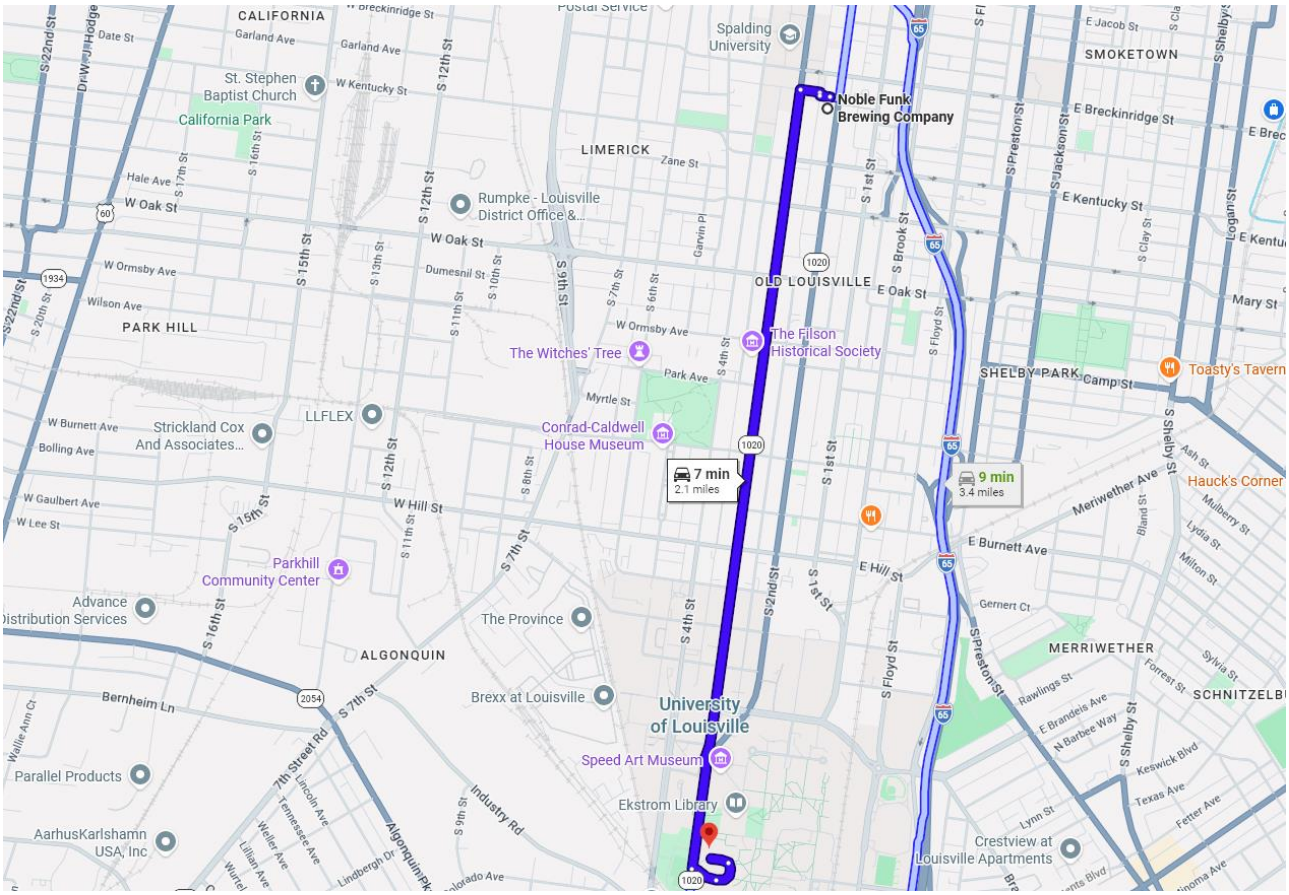
Distinguished Kentucky Economist: Dr. John P. Nelson, University of Louisville

Directly following the Keynote Address, KEA Business Meeting—open to attendees.
Location: Ballroom or an adjoining room.

Kentucky Economic Association
Roll of Distinguished Economists

James Martin	1975	Margaret Walls	2003
William Herzel	1976	Merl Hackbart	2004
Marlon Gillium	1977	Donald Kenkel	2005
Don Soule	1978	W. Kip Viscusi	2006
Clifton Lowry	1979	Ralph d'Arge	2007
Paul Tanner	1980	John Whitehead	2008
Damon Harrison	1981	Glenn Blomquist	2009
Charles Haywood	1982	Jeffrey LAcker	2010
Charles Hultman	1983	Amitabh Chandra	2011
James Thompson	1984	James J. Heckman	2012
Lawrence Lynch	1985	Jerry R. Skees	2013
Stephen Lile	1986	Paul A. Coomes	2014
Roy Bahi	1990	La Vaughn M. Henry	2015
Jaunita Kreps	1991	Eugenia F. Toma	2016
Ray Marshall	1992	Kathryn H. Anderson	2017
Paul McCracken	1993	Frank O'Connor	2018
Benjamin Friedman	1994	David Wildasin	2019
Alan Randall	1995	John Garen	2020
Gerald Lynch	1996	Cathy Carey	2021
Ronald Jones	1997	Frank Scott	2022
Price Fishback	1998	Todd Stinebrickner	2023
James Ramsey	1999	Bruce Johnson	2024
Kerry Back	2000	Brian Goff	2025
Eugene Steurle	2002	John P. Nelson	2026

Map to Noble Funk



Way from College of Business to University Club

