The Bluegrass Higher Education Consortium, under the leadership of Presidents John Roush of Centre College and Michael Benson of Eastern Kentucky University, graduated its second class of 45 Fellows in the highly successful Bluegrass Academic Leadership Academy. Faculty and staff from the 12 member institutions participated. Sessions took place at the BCTC Newtown Campus and Centre College.

New this year, Fellows collaborated with other class members and ALA campus liaisons from their institution to implement projects that benefited their campuses. This is a program that will be continued for years to come.

BHEC also hosted its 4th Annual Presidents’ Conference in November which was a rollout event for Idea Festival Bluegrass in 2016.

Innovations and great ideas on each of the college campuses were presented.
IF Bluegrass has been announced for April 21 and 22 at the Eastern Kentucky University Center for the Arts, featuring keynote speakers Jad Abumrad of NPR’s Radiolab and his presentation “Gut Churn,” and Dr. Rich DeMillo of Georgia Tech’s Center for 21st Century Universities on the Revolution in Higher Education.

There were also two “Presidents Call To Action” Meetings, exploring how BHEC member institutions can continue to collaborate. A Public Relations Branding Task Force was developed to explore how we might be able to brand our institutions and to improve the image of Kentucky education in the state and nationally. Furthermore to explore how our member institutions can plan for quality of life and educational attainment in our region.

The Bluegrass Forever Green Sustainability Partnership was introduced in 2015, in collaboration with Bluegrass Greensource, and continues to sustain the Bluegrass Forever with our conservation, preservation and sustainability umbrella of initiatives, which promotes an environmentally sustainable region with the protection of precious bluegrass soils and our equine, agriculture industry as its centerpiece.

Designed from the model of the Green Umbrella in Greater Cincinnati, BFG held its second summit on November 11 and through the presentations and ensuing discussions it was consensus that the partnership would move forward with working teams focusing on: 1) Land, which includes our Equine Agriculture Initiative and visioning our next great land preservation program and our work with the National Park Service Rivers Trails Conservation Assistance Program on planning the best trails and greenways network in the country. 2) Water, including our work with the Kentucky River Water Trails Alliance and our River Blast Events 3) Waste/Recycling, 4) Energy, 5) Local Food/Agriculture. Work continues in Fayette & Scott Counties on developing connective trails systems in those two counties, extending the Legacy Trail around the Kentucky Horse Park into Scott county for hike, bike and horseback.

Also approved in 2015, was another assistance grant from the NPS, RTCA program to implement this same type of planning in Woodford, Franklin and Owen counties.

Finally, Bluegrass Tomorrow also teamed up with the University of Kentucky Landscape Architecture Studio program, under the direction of Dr. Jayoung Koo, to implement a two—month study on a Scenic Kentucky River trails and greenspace system, including the Kentucky River Counties of Mercer, Garrard, Jessamine, Madison, Clark, and Estill Counties. This project will continue in 2016, as the deliverables from the 5th year landscape architecture students included a power point presentation and a written report of recommendations for discussion throughout the region.
Through discussions at the Forever Green Summit, the Equine Agricultural Initiative in 2016 will be to promote the development of more land advocacy organizations like the Fayette Alliance and Woodford Forward.

Two successful River Blast festivals also took place in 2015, presented by Kentucky American Water and organized by Bluegrass Tomorrow and its partners; Frankfort in June and Boonesborough in August.

This has become a popular fundraising event for BGT and the Kentucky Riverkeeper, and brings masses of people to the river to celebrate the resource. Frankfort featured a laser lights show at the end of the evening and a flotilla, boat parade, Boonesborough featured its bonfires on the beach and fireworks, along with food trucks, entertainment and more. Over 10,000 people have attended River Blast events over the last two years.

The second “Celebration of the Bluegrass” Dinner at Normandy Farm in October was another big success with over 175 in attendance to enjoy dinner in the beautiful barn venue at Normandy, many had dinner in stalls, enjoying art from the region, silent and live auction and music by Jazzberry Jam. Many thanks to Chair Billy Van Pelt, Brack Marquette, Debbie Hoskins, Kathy Plomin and their committee, as well as a huge thank you to board member Nancy Polk for the use of the wonderful venue.

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**BLUEGRASS TOMORROW INC**

**Profit & Loss**

January through December 2015

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### Income

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**Net Income** - $3,095.97
### 2015 Donors & Contributors

#### Corporate Partners / Vision Society

**$5,000 and above**
- Aramark
- Bechtel Parsons Bluegrass Community Trust Bank
- Kentucky American Water
- Kentucky Bank
- Kentucky Utilities
- Ann McBrayer, Kentucky Eagle
- RJ Corman Railroad Group
- Stantec
- UK Federal Credit Union

#### Presidents Trustees / Vision Society

**$2,500 - $4,999**
- AT&T
- Blue & Co.
- Kassie Branham Foundation
- Brandstetter Carroll Inc.
- Catholic Health Initiatives
- CBTS/Avaya
- Central Bank
- Columbia Gas of Kentucky
- East Kentucky Power Cooperative
- Eastern Kentucky University
- First State Financial
- GRW Engineers, Inc.
- Messer Construction
- PNC Bank
- Nancy Polk, Normandy Farm
- Sullivan University
- Transylvania University
- Your Community Bank

#### Sustainers $1,000 - $2,499 cont.

- Keeneland Association, Inc.
- Kentucky League of Cities
- McBrayer McGinnis Leslie & Kirkland, PLLC
- Scripps Howard Foundation
- Bruce Simpson
- Steptoe & Johnson
- Taylor Made Community Foundation
- The Allen Company
- University of Kentucky
- W.T. Young Storage
- Wyatt Tarrant & Combs

#### Partners

**$500 - $999**
- Delta Natural Gas
- Frankfort, Franklin County Tourism Commission
- Georgetown College
- Irving Materials, Inc.
- Jessamine County Fiscal Court Justice Real Estate
- Kentucky River Properties
- Lexington Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Lexington Herald Leader
- Midway College
- Morehead State University
- Palmer Engineering
- Patty Ryan
- City of Sadieville
- Sherman Carter Barnhart
- Traditional Bank
- Winter Quarter Farm

#### Sustainers

**$1,000 - $2,499**
- The Bell Company
- Billy Van Pelt Consulting
- Bluegrass Community Foundation Centre College
- Davis & Plomin Mechanical Davis
- H. Elliot Company
- First Security Bank
- Greer Companies
- Robert Hewett
- Hilary Boone Foundation

#### Patron

**$200 - $499**
- Asbury University
- Back Construction
- Bank of the Bluegrass
- Bluegrass Community Foundation
- G.A. Bussini
- Mayor Claude Christensen
- Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP
- EOP Architects
- Farmers National Bank

*cont.*
### 2015 Donors & Contributors, cont.

#### Patron - $200 - $499 cont.
- Graviss McDonald’s Restaurants
- Kentucky Horse Park
- Kentucky River Task Force
- Kentucky Service Company
- Bret King
- Lancaster Grand Theatre
- Allen Norvell
- Nursery Place
- Richmond Chamber of Commerce
- Scott County Fiscal Court
- StateBook International
- Stoll Keenon Ogden, PLLC
- Mark & Julia Taylor
- Ron & Patricia Tritschler Laurance
- Van Meter
- Dr. Doug Whitlock
- WKYT-TV

#### Associate

**$100-$199**
- Doug Adkisson
- Atlantic Appraisal Company Berea College
- Brookdale Farm
- Robert Clark
- Cornett & Associates
- Marsha Drake
- Ellinger Management
- Frankfort Chamber of Commerce
- Garrard County Fiscal Court
- William Howell
- Jon Larson
- Cory Johnson
- Kentucky Lighting & Supply
- Phil Osborne
- Jacquelyn Prewitt
- Rick Queen
- Richmond Industrial Development Authority
- Jack Stickney
- Fred Tuttle

**$25 - $99**
- Kenny Book
- Clyde Carpenter
- Jack Debold
- Sam Dunn
- David Fulton
- Lorraine Garkovich
- Peter Hackbert
- Phyllis Hasbrouck
- H.W. Lochner, Inc.
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- Salvage Building Materials
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