



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

GREG FISCHER
MAYOR

Hello from Louisville,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the fifth annual TrustBelt Corporate & Consultants Forum to be held in Louisville, Kentucky August 19-21, 2019. Louisville is the economic hub of a bi-state region of more than 1.5 million people and 21,000 businesses with expertise in five major business clusters – Business Services/IT, Lifelong Wellness and Aging Care, Food and Beverage, Advanced Manufacturing and Logistics and eCommerce. As the hometown of Muhammad Ali, the Kentucky Derby and the world's greatest bourbons, Louisville provides a unique pairing of southern hospitality and midwestern sensibilities.

Louisville is experiencing tremendous economic momentum. Since 2014, more than \$13 billion of investment has poured into Louisville, making for a boom of exciting projects from headquarter relocations, to professional sports and entertainment venues and the addition of world-renowned hotel brands to our ever evolving skyline. We also have seen fantastic job growth since the recession in 2011, with companies creating more than 80,000 new jobs. We are welcoming new businesses in sectors where we specialize, such as lifelong wellness and aging care innovation, and we are strengthening our competitiveness in fast-growing sectors like business and technology services. Businesses are finding success in Louisville, from the newest entrepreneur to our long-standing corporate citizens.

This year's conference theme of The Tech Effect highlights our city's goal of fostering a culture of lifelong learning, creativity and innovation. From micro-factories like GE Appliances FirstBuild, to civic accelerators, Louisville has a vibrant ecosystem of special spaces and places where people can create and innovate ideas and products. We are rapidly scaling our pipeline of tech talent with training programs like Code Louisville and The Software Guild, which have added to our 20,000-strong tech talent pool and growing pipeline.

Jefferson Community & Technical College's \$24 million Advanced Manufacturing and Information Technology Center will open in fall 2020. The University of Louisville is leading the way in innovation with its world-class facilities for 3D printing and additive manufacturing, and its nationally ranked Entrepreneurship MBA program, which matches students with serial entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, and national business leaders.

Louisville's historically rich manufacturing and logistics heritage continues to thrive in today's advanced economy with two Ford plants, GE Appliances headquarters, UPS WorldPort, and hundreds of small and medium-sized enterprises creating a base with multi-generational experience and excellence. While you're in the city, we hope you experience all Louisville has to offer. I look forward to seeing you in Louisville next August.

Sincerely,

Mayor Greg Fischer

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