



# Governor's Scholars Program Quarterly News & Updates

March | 2026

## Poll

How did you first hear about GSP?

Family Member

Friend or Peer

School

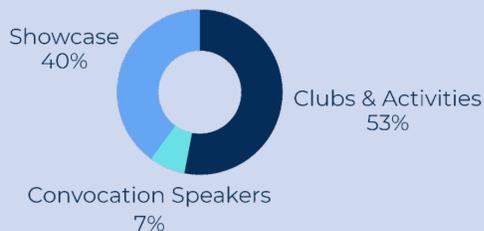
**Alumni: Join us on one of our three college campuses this summer – Centre College, Morehead State University, or Murray State University – for GSP Alumni Day.** This is your chance to connect with other GSP Alums, reminisce about your Scholar experience, and engage with our 2026 Governor's Scholars!



*Roy Lee Wigginton ('03), Kim Reeder ('86), Cory Curl ('93), and Josh Woodward ('92) visit GSP-Morehead for Alumni Day 2025*

## Q4 Poll Results

Which activity is most memorable from your scholar year?



We are seeking Alumni of any age and GSP era to come speak to the 2026 Scholars about your time at GSP, your personal experiences, and your professional journey. To express your interest, please fill out the alumni day interest form ([here](#)) and we will contact you with more information and details.

[Alumni Day Interest Form](#)

## Did you know?

Kentucky County Trivia



If you have any questions, please contact GSP Director of Community Engagement, Jenny Garcia, at [jenny.garcia@gspky.org](mailto:jenny.garcia@gspky.org) or 502-209-4420.

**Bath County:** This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Kentucky Meat Shower in Bath County. This was a rare and strange occurrence and now there is a festival that celebrates it. ([learn more](#)).

**Boone County:** Since 1998, Rabbit Hash, an unincorporated community in Boone County, has had a dog as Mayor. The election is a fundraiser for the small town where every vote costs \$1. The current Mayor, sworn in to office in January 2025, is a bluetick coonhound named Boone. ([learn more](#)).



**Fulton County:** Due to the imprecise early surveying of Kentucky's southern border, Fulton County is divided into two non-contiguous parts. A portion of Fulton County called Madrid Bend is only accessible by traveling through Tennessee. ([learn more](#)).

**Grayson County:** The Clarkson Honeyfest festival is Kentucky's official State Honey Festival. The annual bee-themed festival celebrates Grayson County's ties to the honey industry and is held in September each year ([learn more](#)).

## GSP Day at the Races



GSP Day at the Races is on Thursday, April 16 at Keeneland! GSP Alums and other members of the GSP Community will gather to visit, reminisce, and enjoy Kentucky traditions - both GSP and horse racing! Our GSP Reserved Grandstand seating tickets have all been claimed, but you can still purchase General Admission tickets through the Keeneland website. We will have a GSP welcome table at the East Plaza in front of the Sales Pavilion from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. where you can check in to receive your GSP nametag, free GSP swag, and enter a drawing to win items from our brand-new merch launch.

Please fill out [this form](#) so we know you are planning to attend, and we will see you at the races!

## Legislative Day



Office of the Governor Chief of Staff  
La Tasha Buckner (GSP '91)





Senator Cassie Chambers  
Armstrong (GSP '04)



Senator Jason Howell (GSP '88)

A small group of 2025 Governor's Scholars attended GSP Legislative Day on January 28th at the Capitol Annex. Scholars met individually with legislators, attended a Senate Committee Meeting, and met with prominent state officials, including 1995 GSP Alum, Governor Andy Beshear. Later in the Legislative Session on February 11th, the GSP Executive Director and two 2025 Scholars presented to the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee on behalf of GSP. All of the students on both days acted as advocates for the Governor's Scholars Program and encouraged legislators to continue supporting the Program.

GSP is a public/private partnership where about 75% of our funding comes from state appropriations. You can advocate on behalf of GSP by contacting your local legislators and telling them what you love about the Program!



*GSP Testimony at the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee meeting begins at 4 minutes and 30 seconds.*

## Alumni Updates





### ALUMNI UPDATES

March 2026



Kim Reeder  
**Kim Reeder (GSP - UK 1985)** took on the role of Director in the Children's Law Center's (CLC's) Lexington office in December. CLC represents children in a variety of contexts, including as crime victims, the subject of contentious custody disputes, and in connection with protective orders and various education matters. CLC also provides policy advocacy and community education. The Lexington office will be focusing in Fayette County along with communities across the commonwealth. She is excited to pursue her



Jessica Bailey  
**Jessica Bailey (GSP - Centre 1992)** was promoted to Director of Central Student Services at Eastern Kentucky University where she manages a fantastic team of professional staff and peer counselors who help students with their financial aid, registration,

[View Alumni Page](#)

[Submit an Update](#)

Visit the GSP website under “Alumni Updates and Highlights” to see what your fellow scholars have been up to.

Share your personal and professional milestones with your GSP Community. Send career changes, promotions, weddings, or milestones to be included in the Quarterly Newsletter!

**BRAND NEW**  
**BRAND NEW**  
**BRAND NEW**



**SHOP NOW!**  
NEW APPAREL & STICKERS

Our new GSP merchandise is here! Our new items include updated apparel and brand-new stickers, offering fresh ways to show off your GSPride.

Shop the new merchandise using the link below, and don't forget to tag us on social media when you're showing off your new GSP gear!

## 2025 Scholar Reunions

2025 Scholars – be sure to check your emails next month for more information about GSP reunions. We can't wait to see you back on campus in June!



## Planning for the 44th Summer

We are a month away from announcing the 2026 Governor's Scholars! Please see the timeline below for more dates and details.

**2026 Student  
Application Timeline**

GSP Faculty, RAs, and Office Staff will take part in the annual Spring Retreat later this month to begin building the 2026 GSP Community!

**April 13, 2026:** Latest date for GSP to mail notifications to students.

**May 1, 2026:** Last day for students to accept or decline their appointments.

**May 19, 2026:** Notifications mailed to Scholars of session, campus and class assignment.

### 2026 Session Dates

**Session 1:** June 13, 2026 - July 17, 2026

**Session 2:** June 14, 2026 - July 18, 2026

**Session 3:** June 21, 2026 - July 25, 2026



*The above pictures are from the 2025 Spring Retreat.*

## Donor Spotlight

The GSP was designed to be funded and supported through a unique partnership between the Governor and state legislature and the private community – corporations, foundations, organizations, and friends of the Program.

### **Wayne Martin** *GSP Board Member*

Wayne Martin has been a dedicated and influential member of the Governor's Scholars Program Board since 1998. Wayne's career spans both collegiate athletics and broadcasting, including successful coaching roles at Morehead State and (then) Pikeville College, followed by senior leadership positions across multiple Kentucky and regional television stations. He also currently serves on the Board of Regents at Morehead State University.

What truly sets Wayne apart, though, is the heart he brings to the Governor's Scholars Program. For more than two decades, his steady, thoughtful leadership has helped shape the direction of the GSP and strengthened its foundation. Wayne leads with humility, listens with intention, and always puts the

### **Lindy Street** *GSP Donor & Friend of the Program*

Lindy Street has been a treasured member of the GSP community for many years. She was first connected through her late husband, Mr. William Street, who spent his career at Brown Forman and served as a longtime Board Member of the GSP. Bill believed deeply in the Program's mission and played an important role in strengthening its foundation.

Following Bill's passing, Lindy chose to continue the generosity they shared throughout their lives. Her annual support of the GSP reflects both her personal belief in the value of developing young leaders and her desire to honor Bill's legacy of service. In addition to her philanthropy, Lindy is also a founder of Gilda's Club of Kentuckiana, which speaks to her lifelong commitment to

scholars first. His belief in the mission, his unwavering support, and his deep understanding of what young people in Kentucky need have made him not just a Board Member, but a cornerstone of the Program's success. We are so fortunate to have Wayne as part of our GSP family.

community well-being. Her giving to the Governor's Scholars Program reflects a deep and lasting dedication that enriches the experience for every scholar. The GSP is very grateful for Lindy's ongoing commitment and for the enduring legacy she and Bill created together.

### ***The Gheens Foundation***

Built on a legacy of civic dedication, the Gheens Foundation has been a pillar of philanthropy in Louisville since its founding in 1957 by C. Edwin and Mary Jo Gheens. Rooted in a commitment to education and community well-being, the foundation has grown into one of Kentucky's most significant charitable leaders.

The Governor's Scholars Program has benefited enormously from the Gheens Foundation's steadfast generosity. Their longstanding support reflects their core mission: investing in education as a pathway to individual opportunity and community-wide progress. The ongoing commitment of the Gheens Foundation ensures that future generations of scholars can access this lifechanging opportunity. The GSP is proud to celebrate their profound impact on both Louisville and the Commonwealth.

**CONTACT  
INFORMATION  
UPDATE**

GSP wants your most up to date contact information on file. Click here to provide us with your current email, mailing address, and/or phone number.

[Update Your Information](#)



**venmo**

Click or scan the QR code above to donate to the GSP via Venmo, or search for the account @gsp\_ky in the app.

To make a one-time or recurring donation online or in another way, click the link below.

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**Governor's Scholars Program | [\[gsp.ky.gov\]](http://gsp.ky.gov)**

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